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Sunday, February 23, 2014

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LOCAL



Over 100 attend the 10th Annual Parent Leadership Month Workshop. **► PAGE 14**

NATION



A photographer catches a frantic roadside effort to save an infant. **► PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



Anne Frank's "The Diary" are being vandalized in Tokyo libraries. **► PAGE 21**

INOS HAS AT LEAST 3 OTHER POSSIBLE OPPONENTS

Gubernatorial race gets crowded

» **Former governor Babauta asks GOP for 'open primary'**

» **Democratic Party reorganizes; former CPA director wants to run for governor**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Republican Party is headed for a crowded gubernatorial race as at least three others are eyeing the top post, including former governor Juan N. Babauta, former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, and former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider.

Babauta asked the GOP on Friday for an "open primary," while Deleon Guerrero confirmed during Saturday's successful Democratic Party reorganization that he wants to run for governor, even as the Hofschneider camp maintains a low-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Community members young and old register as members of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands during a general membership meeting and reorganization Saturday at Garapan Central Park.

Rota East Harbor opened to address crisis

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider opened on Saturday Rota's East Harbor and waived port fees to all vessels entering the island to deliver essential goods to the CNMI's southernmost island during this time of food and other

» **Port fees waived during state of emergency**

and commodities as the barges couldn't enter the West Harbor due to rough seas

commodities' shortage. Rota has been declared under a state of emergency since Feb. 14.

For three months now or since Nov. 18, 2013, Rota has been unable to receive essential goods

and bad weather conditions.

Although some goods have been brought into Rota via airplane, including those from the U.S. Department of Defense, not all essential goods and commodities can be brought in without using sea transportation and supplies have "currently been depleted."

"Although the Commonwealth Ports

See ROTA on Page 4

CUC board revived after 9 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider administered the oath of office Friday afternoon to two Senate-confirmed appointees to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, joining a third automatic member to constitute a needed quorum that would officially revive the critical board, nine years since the last one was abolished.

Hofschneider swore in David J. Sablan Jr. and Adelina Roberto as members of the CUC board, in the presence of their families, friends, CUC executive

director Alan Fletcher, members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications led by Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and other government officials on Capital Hill.

» **Acting governor swears in board members**

Sablan, a former chairman of the Guam Power Authority board, said the priority should be restoring peoples' confidence in CUC, among other things. From there, he said, all the other pressing issues will be addressed, including further improving utility efficiency so that savings will be realized and passed on to consumers; meaning lower utility rates.

See CUC on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, left, administers the oath of office to David J. Sablan Jr., center, and Adelina Roberto, right, to serve on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, at a ceremony on Capital Hill Friday afternoon, some nine years since the last CUC board was abolished.

January 2014 visitor arrivals up 6 percent. PAGE 2
NMC to shift accreditation from ACCJC to senior commission. PAGE 7

January 2014 visitor arrivals up 6 percent

January 2014 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands increased 6 percent compared to January 2013. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 41,681 visitors in January 2014 compared to 39,391 in January 2013.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 20 percent in January to 12,107 visitors. A 20-percent decline in air seat supply from Narita impacted the Japanese market

heavily. In addition, the depreciation of the Japanese yen by 18 percent over the past year versus the U.S. dollar has made travel to the NMI for Japanese effectively 18 percent more expensive this January than in January 2013. Also, the average occupancy of major Saipan hotels in January was in excess of 93 percent, and Japanese wholesalers have also been struggling to secure rooms.

Arrivals from Korea rose 4 percent in January to 13,829

visitors, more than any other source market. Dynamic Airways doubled the number of



flights from Seoul to the CNMI from two a week to four a week during the high season from Jan. 5 to Feb. 28, 2014, which is en-

suring continued strong growth in arrivals out of the Korea market for the period.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China jumped 60 percent in January to 12,480 visitors. Charter flights by Dynamic Airways from Tianjin and Hangzhou were launched in January 2014, flying every five days to the NMI. In conjunction with Century Tours, the MVA China office is now planning a series of media and trade promotions in support of the new flights. Con-

tinued strong growth in arrivals out of the China market is projected for February with Lunar New Year.

Arrivals from Russia grew 11 percent to 1,156 visitors in January. While the total number of outbound travelers from Russia to all destinations worldwide is now falling compared to the same period in 2013, due to the ongoing economic slowdown in Russia, arrivals to the CNMI continue to soar as a result of strong airlift from East Russia

from AVIACHARTERS and Asiana Airlines. However, due to the limited availability of hotel rooms in the Northern Marianas, AVIACHARTERS has just announced the launch of charter flights from East Russia to Guam; this is a long-term competitive concern of the MVA until the lack of hotel rooms in the NMI has been addressed.

Economic highlights

The Japan Cabinet's December report assessed the Japanese economy is recovering at a moderate pace, the highest assessment in six years. In January, the yen increased in value against other major currencies. As of Jan. 31, 2014, exchange rates stood at 102.68 yen to the U.S. dollar. Japan's largest travel agent JTB predicted 17.8 million Japanese will travel internationally in 2014, a 2.1 percent increase from 2013.

The Korean government recently announced its Economic Directions for 2014 to boost economic demand, remove regulatory obstacles, and revitalized corporate investment. The won/dollar exchange rate rose 24.42 over the past month to close at 1,075.50 won per dollar. The total number of Korean outbound travelers in 2013 was up 8.1 percent compared to 2012.

The China Ministry of Finance said the country's fiscal revenue climbed 10.1 percent year-on-year to 2013 to reach \$2.11-trillion. According to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System, the Chinese renminbi rose 72 basis points to 6.1035 against the U.S. dollar on Jan. 24, 2014. The Tourism Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said China had the world's highest number of outbound tourists and largest amount of overseas spending last year. (MVA)

'Dako-On' drum group performs at Street Market

Despite the rain that drenched vendors and visitors alike, students from Seisa High School's drum group, *Dako-On*, gave a booming performance at the Thursday Street Market in Garapan.

About 10 students impressed the more than 300 viewers that huddled close to the stage to watch one of the highlights of the evening.

Dako-On is a Japanese drum group that started in Yokohama, Japan. A club in Seisa High School became a part of the Japanese drum company. They have given performances in elderly facilities, preschools, elementary schools, junior high schools and elsewhere in Japan. They have also performed in foreign countries: in Cuba in 2000, in China in 2002, and The Netherlands in 2005.

They won first prize at the Kumagaya Dome 2011 Japan Final in December 2011 and became the best Japanese drum group in the country. They missed the finals in December 2012 and came in second, but won it again in



JAYSON CAMACHO

Seisa High School's drum group, *Dako-On*, have their picture taken before their performance at the Street Market last Thursday.

2013 in Saitama, Japan.

The drum group plays traditional Japanese drums and promote their art with their slogan

"Seeing sounds."

The group came to Saipan with about 200 high school students that are sister schools

with Marianas High School. Their trip was arranged by the Nippon Travel Agency.

This is the 28th year that the

Seisa High School has traveled to Saipan. The group left Saipan last Saturday. (Jayson Camacho)



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

**Have Your Group
"Beautify My Marianas"!**

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the Saipan Chamber of

Commerce (SCC) are pleased to announce that all groups are now welcomed to apply for "Beautify My Marianas," an island beautification project providing cash for cleanup projects.

"Beautify My Marianas" aims to keep the Northern Marianas clean and pristine. The program offers a minimum of \$100 to groups to pick up trash in designated areas on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Depending on the level of difficulty and the type of project (e.g.: trash cleaning with some tree trimming or brush cutting), the \$100 fee may be increased. Applying groups must meet all eligibility guidelines.

Interested groups may apply to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce or the MVA, and

upon approval of their application, they will be assigned an area that requires immediate trash clean up. It will be up to the group submitting their application to decide how many people will clean the area and when the cleanup will be accomplished. Approved groups must provide before, during and after photos of the site, as evidence of the cleanup prior to disbursement of funds.

Applications are available at
www.mymarianas.com and
www.saipanchamber.com.



Local

CSC: Political coercion will not be tolerated

The Civil Service Commission say the agency will not tolerate the use of official authority or influence to coerce government employees for political purposes. Both Commonwealth laws and the Civil Service regulations protect government employees from being intimidated or harassed by threats to their employment security through political pressure relative to public elections.

chairman of the CNMI Civil Service Commission, said that he has been advised that, despite these protections, employees are being coerced into attending or not attending and supporting or not supporting political events as the election season progresses.

"Employees are being threatened that they will lose their jobs if they either don't support or do support certain candidates. Often these actions also involve

contributions or the purchase of event tickets. The Civil Service Commission cannot and will not allow this to happen to government employees. One of the major responsibilities of the commission is to provide guidance and protection to civil service employees through the development of regulations. The Civil Service regulations prohibit such abuses of authority. The commission will enforce its regulation and will take action to protect its employees. The statutes, on which this regulation is based, also protect employees outside the Civil Service."

"Employees must be able to exercise their right to participate in political activities of their choosing without being pressured or threatened. Section 8152 of the Commonwealth Code provides criminal penalties, up to six months imprisonment, a fine up to \$1,000, or both imprisonment and fine, to any government official who uses his or her position, authority or influence to threaten an employee's employment, pay, benefits, tenure, or other aspects of government employment. The Civil Service Commission will act with the authority provided to it by law to protect

employees from such abuse and fully expects all departments and activities to also protect their employees. All enforcement agencies are likewise expected to take appropriate investigative action when political coercion is reported or referred

to them," he added.

According to Deleon Guerrero, "The commission is fully prepared to protect government employees and take the appropriate administrative and legal action. I encourage employees to report violations to the commission. Due to the limited time the commission is convened as

a body, please address a written statement to the commission and deliver it to the director of the Office of Personnel Management."

"There is no place for political coercion in today's Commonwealth. All government officials should join with the commission to stop it," he concluded. (CSC)

Hotel occupancy at 92 pct. in January 2014

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 92.07 percent occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for January 2014, a 1-percent increase compared to January 2013.

A total of 65,786 of 71,455 available room nights sold in January 2014, compared to 67,794 of 74,462 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were \$148.28 during the month, compared to \$128.53 last January.

"Strong occupancy is good

for the industry and good for the Northern Mariana Islands," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "It means taxes are being paid to provide government services to the people and jobs are being provided in both the public and private sectors. This is the partnership our HANMI hotels have had—and would like to continue to have—as contributing members of this community."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (HANMI)

Water outage Tuesday in China Town, Japon St.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the residents of China Town and Japon Street that a nine-hour water outage is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014, from 8am to 5pm.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to rehabilitate the pressure relief valve on Sugar King Road. This project is part of the Navy Hill Water Line and Pressure Improvement Project

and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC's operations team and GPPC will be working hard to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists exercise caution when driving through the construction sites. Direct inquiries to project manager Larry Manacop at (670) 236-4332. (CUC)

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CUC

From Page 1

Roberto and Sablan will be joining Diego M. Songao who, pursuant to law, becomes automatic CUC board member as chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors.

Hofschneider said he's consulting with the Office of the Attorney General on whether Songao also needs to be sworn in as CUC board member before the board can convene to organize.

Just the same, Hofschneider said it is welcome news that the CUC board is revived, with qualified and dedicated people sitting on it. He and other offi-

cials on Friday said the last time CUC had a board of directors was in 2005.

The acting governor said based on law, there should be five CUC board members and at least three to constitute a quorum. The higher threshold for the CUC board membership, he said, pertains only during the transition period.

He thanked Sablan and Roberto for accepting the appointment, knowing too well that a CUC board membership is challenging.

Sablan himself was chosen by the Inos administration for his background in making policy decisions in running a utility firm from 1987 to 1991, including when he was GPA board

chairman during what Sablan described as "one of the worst times in the history of GPA" when energy demand was exceeding capacity.

"In 1990-1991, we had a one-year load-shedding issue, and we were the most hated utility on the entire island but notwithstanding, we stayed the course. The staff and board and all the vendors we worked with stayed the course to change that. Now, the word load-shedding is not even in the terminology of the people of Guam because everybody was focused on making sure that we corrected the problem, which was to have enough reserve capacity. We did that and we developed a 20-year

resource plan so the engineers have at least a bible to work with," Sablan said.

Sablan, the state chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve or ESGR, said as a confirmed and sworn-in member of the CUC board, he would like to look at some of the programs instituted at GPA to help CUC.

GPA is 10 times larger than CUC, he pointed out.

During a Senate public hearing on his appointment, Sablan was asked about his priority if he gets confirmed, to which he said it should be restoring public confidence in CUC.

He said when he asked around about what people think

about CUC, the response is "not very positive."

"And yet these are our customers. And if your customers don't like your store and still shop there, you probably realize they're doing it out of a matter of necessity [and] not because they want to help you or work with you or support your business. We need to change that attitude I think," he said, adding that other priorities include further improving efficiency, looking at finances, looking for ways to save costs without compromising quality of service, personnel matters, and looking at renewable energy sources.

Roberto, for her part, also thanked Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Hofschneider for appointing

her and the Senate for confirming her appointment to the CUC board.

"We got a lot of work ahead of us," said Roberto, whose Senate confirmation hinged on her resignation from the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, who was at the swearing-in ceremony, suggested at least one other appointee as soon as possible because CDA board chair Songao, as automatic CUC board member, would "protect CDA interests" and not CUC interests once CDA-CUC issues are being tackled.

"Hopefully we have at least one board member...to avoid conflict," he added.

ROTA

From Page 1

Authority has not established or regulated East Harbor as a port of entry for Rota, the ongoing emergency situation on Rota justifies its use as a temporary port of entry to alleviate Rota's severe lack of essential goods and commodities," the acting governor said.

Although weather conditions have prevented barges from entering Rota's West Harbor, smaller cargo vessels may be able to enter the port, and waiving port fees and charges for vessels entering Rota could help alleviate

Rota's emergency, he said.

Hofschneider, in his Feb. 22 directive, ordered the special assistant for CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Rota Mayor's Office and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to provide for Rota East Harbor's safe use "as an alternate port of entry for the delivery of essential goods and commodities to Rota during this emergency period."

"The use of East Harbor as a port of entry shall discontinue upon the termination of the state of emergency," the acting governor said in his two-page directive. Under the governor's direc-

tive, any cargo vessels entering Rota's East Harbor shall be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and shall carry the necessary permits from the same federal agency.

"The payment of port fees and charges required under NMIAC 40-20.1-165 is waived for all cargo vessels entering Rota during this emergency period. Port fees and charges shall be reinstated upon the termination of the state of emergency," the acting governor said in his directive.

He added that this information shall be disseminated "to all shipping companies that have the capabilities and authoriza-

tion to deliver goods and commodities to Rota," he said.

GPPC president H. Chieng Tan, meanwhile, wrote to the governor to offer their cargo vessel services using the MV *Jayden*, a landing craft-style, roll-on, roll-off vessel.

Tan said the vessel is U.S. Coast Guard-certified and can carry up to two 40-foot containers, or four 20-foot containers, or break bulk cargo on its deck. He said the company has started providing Saipan-Tinian services recently using this vessel and is ready to commence a Saipan-Rota service as well.

"A commitment from the government will allow us to

mobilize necessary resources to make this service available. We are prepared to offer up to two sailings per week to Rota, if necessary," Tan told the governor. The company asked to be allowed to dock at Rota's East Harbor.

The acting governor also said additional measures may be taken to address the emergency on Rota.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Feb. 14 declaration of a state of emergency for Rota is in effect for 30 days.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola asked for an extension of the 30-day emergency declaration, saying more time is

needed to address the problems on Rota.

"To provide us this opportunity, I suggest that we use government funds to subsidize a shipping firm (we have established dialogue with one) to provide this service in the interim while a private firm can secure funding for a long-term solution," the mayor said.

Hofschneider on Friday received updates from the Rota mayor who said that while food supplies are being delivered to Rota via air freight, the island needs other supplies than can only be transported via sea vessel such as LPG or liquefied petroleum gas, and chlorine.

CROWDED

From Page 1

key campaign at this time.

If the three other individuals besides Inos pursue their intentions, then it would be harder for any of certified candidates to get at least 50-percent plus one of the votes cast in the November race. The CNMI would see another runoff election.

Members of the Republican central executive committee told *Saipan Tribune* that Babauta's request for an open primary would be thumbed down as early as this week because the GOP had already endorsed the tandem of Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) in September.

Republican leadership members said there is no need for a primary because of the GOP's endorsement in September of Inos and Torres.

Babauta, in an interview, said he would wait for a formal response from the Republican Party and "we will then make a decision what to do next."

The former governor said at this time, he could not answer questions related to whether he would run as an independent if and when the GOP executive committee decides to reject his request for an open primary.

But he acknowledged that it would be "difficult," if not "virtually impossible," for any one candidate to get at least 50-percent plus one of the votes cast in the November race if there are many candidates.

Ivan Blanco, chairman of the GOP Central Committee's public relations team, said the central committee received numerous letters of intent for the slots by the close of the Friday 4pm deadline for submission of letters of intent.

A GOP emergency meeting will be held to decide on Babauta's letter to the GOP, received at 2:55pm on Friday.

'Open primary request'

Babauta picked former senator and former representative Juan Sablan Torres as his running mate.

In their one-page letter, they offered their candidacy to run as governor and lieutenant governor for the 2014 general elections under the Republican Party.

"My running-mate and I pray for the general membership's consideration for an open primary election in the selection for candidate for governor and lieutenant governor," Babauta and Torres said.

Babauta said that Torres is now on his way back to Saipan from Boise, and they plan to hold a joint news briefing at a later time.

Babauta, 60, served as CNMI governor from January 2002 to 2006. He is also a former senator in the CNMI Legislature from 1986 to 1990, and served three terms as CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. from 1990 to 2002. He has a master's degree in health planning/administration and a master's degree in political science and American history. He also

served as chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

He said Torres' financial management background complements his background and experience, making their team a formidable one.

"We have known all these years that our party's strength is grounded upon the principle of openness, of inclusion, and of participation, all based upon proven democratic principles that have led our great party to victory in the past. We hope that we as Republicans will follow in that winning tradition," Babauta and Torres added.

Babauta and Torres' request for a primary comes nine years after the Republican Party leadership chose Babauta despite the request of Hofschneider, then a representative, for a primary.

Meanwhile, Republican central committee members said no one submitted a letter of intent to run as delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives as of Friday's deadline.

The Republican Party will hold a kickoff rally on March 23, Sunday, at the Susupe basketball courts.

Inos, 64, is currently in Washington, D.C. for a series of official meetings and is expected to be back on Feb. 28. Inos became governor on Feb. 20, 2013, when former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate over charges of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Inos' current lieutenant governor, Jude U. Hofschneider, is seeking a Tinian senatorial seat once again in November. Hofschneider was Senate president prior to Fitial's resignation.

Democrats reorganize

On Saturday night, the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands held a general membership meeting and successfully reorganized itself, with the nomination of the Central Executive Committee members, election of officers, and official opening of the submission of letters of intent to run in the November gubernatorial elections.

Former chief justice Jesse Borja, who has been acting chairman of the Democratic Party since former presiding judge Edward Manibusan resigned in January, led Saturday night's meeting at the Garapan Central Park.

Gracing the occasion was former Democratic governor Carlos Camacho, along with wife Winnie.

Benjamin M. Cepeda was elected the new chairman of the Democratic Party, while elected vice chair was Teresita Pertudo. The new secretary is Jashlie Nicole Camacho, and the treasurer is Emilia Chargualaf.

"I wasn't expecting it. It's an honor and I'd do my best to lead the party," Cepeda told reporters at the meeting. He used to work at the Department of Corrections, and ran for representative of Precinct 1 but lost. He came back from Washington State

and Guam.

He said as of Saturday night, there were already envelopes turned in containing letters of intent to run in the November race but he said the central committee has yet to open the envelopes.

'Deleon Guerrero for governor'

Edward Masga Deleon Guerrero, a longtime Democrat and former CPA executive director, confirmed Saturday night that he is "interested in running for the office of governor."

But Deleon Guerrero pointed out that he is not yet a candidate because at the time of the interview he has yet to submit his letter of intent. The party also just reorganized and elected executive committee members that will select the Democratic Party's candidates.

As of this weekend, there's no telling who his running mate will be, once the party picks him to be the gubernatorial candidate.

The deadline for submission of letters of intent to run under the Democratic Party is on May 5.

"The emphasis of the Democratic Party is reorganizing," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the Democratic Party "used to be a very powerful party" and he thinks it would be a powerful one again.

Deleon Guerrero is a former representative under the Democratic Party in the 5th Legislature. He served as vice chairman of the Democratic Party, and a board member of the party for almost 10 years.

"My father, mother, the people I see here tonight, come from a family that used to be Democrats. So it seems like Democrats are coming back now, reunited. I'm just helping the process of trying to do the right thing now, how to reunite the Democratic Party," he added.

Former Tinian senator David Cing, also at the meeting, said if nobody else would like to run for the Tinian mayor's post under the Democratic Party, "then that's the time I'm going to throw in my name."

Just like the other Democrats, Cing said he'd like to see the party reorganized first.

"We have to work very hard, extra hard this time. As a matter of fact, the Democratic Party has to fight tooth and nail in order to get to the top," he added.

Also at the Democratic gathering were former Commerce secretary Andrew Salas and former representative Rosiky Camacho. Jess Taisague led the registration team at the meeting, while Barbara Iglecias also helped organize the meeting.

Former speaker Heinz Hofschneider's camp has yet to announce Hofschneider's candidacy but some groups have already been holding meetings to pledge their support to him. Sources said his possible running mate is Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), although there were others also approached earlier, including former lieutenant governor and former speaker Diego Benavente, and Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).



E-GAMING IS CASINO.
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CASINO

Inos, nation's governors meet in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Gov. Eloy S. Inos is meeting with fellow governors from across the country here in the nation's capitol for the 2014 National Governors Association Winter Meeting. This is Inos' first NGA meeting, exactly a year after his ascension to the position of governor.

The meeting provides governors an opportunity to discuss issues, share innovative solutions, and look for ways to strengthen state-federal partnership. The meeting also will include sessions with the President, members of his Cabinet, business leaders and other experts, as well as several governors-only meetings.

NGA chair Gov. Mary Fallin (R-Oklahoma) and NGA vice chair Gov. John Hickenlooper (D-Colorado) addressed attendees and the media during an opening news conference Saturday morning.

"Governors across this country are making government work every single day," said Fallin. "While Washington remains mostly gridlocked—preventing long-term solutions—we are addressing challenges by reforming education, building infrastructure, improving health care, and developing energy resources. Governors do not have the luxury of



From left, CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. John deJongh, and Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro Garcia-Padilla get acquainted at the opening session of the 2014 National Governors Association Winter Meeting held Saturday, Feb. 22, in Washington, DC.

standing still. Our hope is that our federal partners will do their part and take action."

Fallin outlined flexible federalism—the need to give states the flexibility to improve programs and policies and to support them in those efforts, noting that governors' principles remain the same:

- Federal reforms should produce savings for both the federal government and states;

- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states or imposing unfunded mandates;

- States should be given increased flexibility to create efficiencies and achieve results; and

- Congress should not impose maintenance-of-effort provisions on states as a condition of funding.

"States are innovating at all

levels and leading the country in finding solutions to often complex issues," said Fallin. "Governors need flexibility to take care of the unique needs of our citizens and the challenges facing our states."

Fallin also highlighted her NGA chair's initiative, *America Works: Education and Training for Tomorrow's Jobs*. The initiative focuses on improving state education and workforce train-

ing systems and aligning those systems with the needs of state economies. Additionally, she released the report, *America Works: The Benefit of a More Educated Workforce to Individuals and the Economy*, that frames the issue.

Jeffrey R. Immelt, chairman and CEO of General Electric, will address governors on this topic during the opening session.

"Gov. Fallin was spot on when she spoke about the need for the federal government to provide flexibility to local governments," said Inos. "I'm also pleased that Gov. Fallin's NGA chair's initiative is focused on education and job training. This is certainly an issue that is at the forefront for us in the CNMI in the midst of uncertainty over the fate of our guest workers."

The America Works initiative is geared toward building capacity for an educated and properly trained workforce. Inos sits on the NGA's Education and Workforce Committee. The initiative also comes at a time when the CNMI's request for extension of the CW transition period remains pending with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor.

"Education and job creation are very important if we want to realize further economic growth in the CNMI," added Inos. "We

need to ensure that we provide our people with the tools they need to succeed."

Other highlights of the weekend include:

- A discussion about employment trends in states, growth opportunities, and the changing economic climate during a special session moderated by Maria Bartiromo, anchor and global markets editor for Fox Business Network and the Fox News Channel.

- The Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee meeting about the future of the National Guard with Gen. Frank Grass, a member of the joint chiefs of staff and the chief of the National Guard Bureau. Governors have continuously called on the Secretary of Defense and Congress to protect the National Guard from damaging reductions to ensure its capabilities and quality.

- An Economic Development and Commerce Committee session on transportation reauthorization, an issue that has remained a top priority for the nation's governors.

- The annual White House dinner on Sunday night and the governors-only meeting with the President on Monday, followed by a final news conference.

NGA's Winter Meeting runs through today, Feb. 24.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,109,520.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$753,815.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,400.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$46,306.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2014.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 30, 2013.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 21, 2014, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 21, 2014, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 12, 2014, 5:00 p.m. & February 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NMC to shift accreditation from ACCJC to senior commission

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Barely two weeks after regaining its accreditation with the Accrediting Commission on Junior Community College, the Northern Marianas College is already looking at shifting its accreditation to the Senior College and University Commission after the Board of Regents approved Friday the change as endorsed by its committee.

Both the ACCJC and the Senior College and University Commission are components of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or WASC. Since 2001, NMC has been both accredited by these two commission bodies for its two-year programs and for its only baccalaureate degree.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart disclosed Friday that the “major shift” is primarily due to the institution’s plan to offer another four-year baccalaureate degree in business starting fall 2014 semester.

Under ACCJC policy, member institution could only offer one four-year degree program; in the case of NMC, its School of Education.

Under the senior commission, Hart said the college could offer as many four-year degree courses it wishes while maintaining its associate degree programs.

Last Friday, the board’s fiscal committee headed by William Torres endorsed to the full board NMC’s application with the senior commission, which is due on March 1. He described the move as fundamental to NMC’s goal to expand its course offerings.

Torres is convinced that the college is adequately prepared to move up and would likely be accepted by the higher commission.

Torres said the shift to the senior commission will not in any way disrupt the current program offerings of the college and, in fact, would save the institution some money, alluding to the expenses incurred by NMC when

it brings both the ACCJC and senior commission members for teams visits.

Additionally, Torres said that moving to the senior commission would help NMC maintain the federal financial assistance its students receive such as Pell grants. It will be recalled that USDOE ruled last year that NMC is ineligible to get Pell grants because of the institution’s dual accreditation. The USDOE later reconsidered and gave NMC a 90-day reprieve after the “substantive change” adopted by the college.

In an interview with Hart Fri-

day, she disclosed that NMC has already informed the ACCJC about the plan and that it understands the direction NMC wants to pursue.

“Our commitment to continuous quality improvement will not change if the college’s accreditation transitions to WASC Senior,” said Hart.

According to the president, the senior commission implements four standards that NMC is more comfortable working with.

“This is the best time to do this. We’re on top of our game right now and we have documentations that are fresh that

would help us in developing our self-study [for the senior commission],” Hart said, adding that NMC cannot add more four-year degree programs if it continues to stay with ACCJC.

If not done this time, Hart said, NMC will need to wait for two more years to gather new data before it can petition to apply for the senior commission.

Hart disclosed NMC’s plan to endorse to the board next month the four-year business degree program, to be implemented in the fall semester.

Saipan Tribune learned that the senior commission provides member institutions an initial accreditation of 6 to 7 years and 10 years for affirmation.

‘Why the rush?’

Prior to voting Friday, regent Juan T. Lizama questioned the timing of the proposal.

“We just completed building a beautiful house, which is good for six years. Why not enjoy this new house at the moment?” Lizama asked colleagues.

He reminded peers about the possible legal ramification of the plan to the enabling statute that governs the college as well as its impact on the institution’s existing programs like remedial programs and others.

NMC board legal counsel Jesus Borja assured, however, that “I look at it in the context raised and I don’t see any contravention of the statute.”

7 arrested for alleged meth distribution

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joint federal and local law enforcement teams arrested Thursday seven persons who are allegedly engaged in distributing methamphetamine or “ice” in the CNMI.

The suspects were brought before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Friday for their initial appearance hearing. Kennedy unsealed the cases.

Arrested were Daniel A. Castro, 32; Vicente S. Palacios, 38; Bao Zhong Wang, 46; Hong Wang, 40; Le Xiang Chen, 63; Xing Bo Fang, 46; and Yu Hua Wang, 46.

Sources said that Daniel Castro is a brother of police detective Esteven Castro, who was previously assigned at the Department of Public Safety’s Narcotics Section.

According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the suspects were arrested after a complaint and indictment were filed against them.

The operation was conducted by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Public Safety, and the CNMI Customs and Border Protection.

As of the court’s close of business late Friday afternoon, only Hong Wang’s case was available for public viewing. At the time, court employees were still

in the process of unsealing the cases of the six other suspects.

In Hong Wang’s case, Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon stated in a criminal complaint that a confidential source told DEA agents and Task Force officers on Jan. 11, 2013, that he/she bought about 30 grams of “ice” per month from Wang from September 2010 until November 2010 at \$300 per gram.

Gordon said that on March 6, 2013, agents with the DEA Saipan Post of Duty and DPS talked with the confidential source to prepare for a controlled purchase of “ice” from Wang.

At the agents’ instruction, the confidential source placed a recorded call to Wang’s cell phone, during which the

suspect agreed to meet at the American Memorial Park for the transaction.

At 1:08pm, agents saw Wang’s Toyota Corolla car arrive at the parking lot of the park.

The confidential source, who was given \$2,400 in DEA funds, entered Wang’s car and bought “ice” in 10 small baggies.

Gordon said that on Nov. 15, 2013, the DEA lab confirmed that the substance bought from Wang was methamphetamine.

Saipan Tribune learned that an indictment was filed against Castro, charging him with four counts of distributing “ice” on May 29, 2013, June 20, 2013, Nov. 6, 2013, and Feb. 14, 2014.

An indictment charged Palacios with one count of distributing “ice” on Oct. 11, 2012.



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB14-GOV-059



Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Agag Water System Well Field Isolation Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 6,255 lineal feet of 4”, and 8” PVC waterline with appurtenant valves, fittings, flow meter, flush hydrants, air relief valves, and pressure reducing valves.
- Remove and dispose existing pipes at the Agag Booster Station.
- Various connections works at five (5) locations.
- Connect existing service laterals and water meters.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Restore asphalt paving.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 17, 2014** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on February 28, 2014**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **February 27, 2014**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **“IFB14-GOV-059”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 19, 2014**, and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 28, 2014**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 19, 2014**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-066

Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill.

The project package will be available Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Governor’s CIP Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 7, 2014** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **“ITB14-GOV-066”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 21, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 21, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 21, 2014** and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 28, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 21, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier’s check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Quichocho allegedly threatened to call cops

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MD. Delowar, a former supervisor of Latte Stone Poker on Rota, testified Friday that he and businesswoman Jung Ja Kim got scared when their attorney, Ramon K. Quichocho, terminated him in February 2009 and threatened to call the Rota police if Kim or any of her employees show up at the poker arcade.

"Miss Kim was also scared. Miss Kim's body was shaking," said Delowar, who testified for Kim in the ongoing jury trial of Quichocho, his law firm, his wife Frances, and their Karissa LLC company in federal court. Kim is suing the defendants for racketeering and other claims.

Delowar said he is an employee of Kim's So-In Corp., but Kim made him a supervisor at her then newly formed business, Latte Stone Poker, on Rota beginning on Nov. 15, 2008.

Delowar said Kim, who is based on Saipan, would call him whenever she instructed Frances to go to Rota and get the collection money from the poker business for deposit into a bank.

He said that when he became supervisor, Quichocho didn't get any money from Latte Stone. He said Kim did not authorize Quichocho to get the collection money.

Delowar said the last collection report he sent to Kim, through the Quichocho law office, was on Feb. 23, 2009.

Prior to Feb. 24, 2009, he said there was no problem with Latte Stone's operation, its personnel, and with Frances.

Delowar recounted that on Feb. 24, 2009, he went to Latte Stone and saw inside the cashier's room Quichocho talking with Rahman Habibur, one of the five employees.

Delowar said he was surprised to see Quichocho because Kim never told him that

he was coming to Rota. Usually, he said, whenever Kim, Frances, or the Quichocho couple would go to Rota, he would get a call from Kim so he could pick them up at the airport.

Delowar said that when he entered the gameroom, Quichocho stopped him from going inside, telling him he would need to talk to him.

He said he followed Quichocho to the parking lot and they talked inside the car.

At the time, Delowar said he was not scared of Quichocho because he was their company lawyer.

He said Quichocho informed him that Frances and Kim have a problem so he was there to fix it. Delowar said he only listened to Quichocho and did not ask what the problem was.

He said Quichocho told him that since he is Kim's employee, he should stop working and that he would pay him his salary during the period when he is jobless.

After their conversation that lasted more than an hour in the car, Delowar said that Quichocho went to talk with Rahman. He said he heard Quichocho telling Rahman to call the police and him if Kim or any of her employees go to the Latte Stone Poker. Delowar said he became afraid so he left the arcade.

At 7am the following day, Delowar called Kim and told her what happened. He said Kim asked what was Quichocho doing on Rota. She told him to remain on standby as she would talk to Quichocho.

After one or two days, Kim called Delowar, but mentioned that there was no decision yet with Quichocho.

He said he informed Kim that he was not feeling safe on Rota and that he does not want to have a problem with the police.

After one or two days, Kim arrived on Rota accompanied by a Chinese man. Delowar said he brought Kim to a hotel then to Latte Stone, but they all stayed in the car in the parking lot because he and Kim were scared to get out because of Quichocho's threat of calling the police.

Delowar said Kim stated that it was her mistake because she trusted Quichocho and put Frances' name as the owner of Latte Stone.

He said Kim stated it would be better if she goes back to Saipan. Kim, who was upset, dropped him off at his house. In March 2009, Delowar went back to Saipan.

Delowar said that Frances or Rahman did not call him for his salary as Quichocho had promised. When Delowar told Kim about his salary, she gave him \$500.

When asked by attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Kim, why he was testifying in court, Delowar replied that whether for Kim, Quichocho, Frances, or for whoever, he just wants "to see justice in this place."

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for the Quichochoes, is expected to cross-examine Delowar when the trial resumes today, Monday, at 9am.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 24, 2006

Senate urges Fitial to reconsider Micro Games

Sen. Luis Crisostimo pledged yesterday to throw in \$20,000 for the 6th Micronesian Games, as the Senate adopted his resolution urging the administration to rescind its withdrawal from hosting the games in the Northern Marianas. Crisostimo said he was willing to dig into his own money, if there were no available funds from the budget of his office. Senate President Joseph Mendiola asked his fellow lawmakers to see if they could help fund the Micro Games, whether by offering cash or providing in-kind support. This took place as the Senate voted unanimously to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 15-3, asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to rescind his cancellation letter to Micronesian Games Council president William Keldermans and to host the games in the CNMI.

New law bans contract buyouts

A law prohibiting contract buyouts was enacted Wednesday along with legislation to transfer the functions of the Marianas Public Lands Authority to a department within the Executive Branch. Authored by House Minority Leader Arnold I. Palacios, House Bill 15-62 was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives. The Senate, which convened soon after the House session, voted 8-1 in favor of the bill. Only Sen. Luis Crisostimo voted against the measure. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial immediately signed the bill, which now becomes Public Law 15-3.

February 24, 2007

Senate president urges feds to see CNMI with fresh eyes

Senate President Joseph M. Mendiola has urged federal officials to look at the Commonwealth with fresh eyes. Commenting on the proposal to extend federal policy to local immigration, Mendiola countered allegation that the CNMI had tried merely to "change perception rather change reality." The CNMI made actual improvements to its immigration procedures, he maintained. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that public perception remains a significant part of the CNMI's problem. In his testimony to the U.S. Senate on Energy and Natural Resources, he focused on dismantling these "unfortunate perceptions" about the Commonwealth.

Bill calls for election of chief justice

A constitutional amendment proposed in the House of Representatives would give justices and judges the elect the Supreme Court chief justice and the Superior Court presiding judge, respectively. Authored by Rep. Ray Yumul, House Legislative Initiative 15-14 seeks to give the power of selecting the chief justice and presiding judge to their colleagues. Currently, the chief justice and the presiding judge are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. No criteria have been set for the selection of these officials. There is no procedure for either official to resign from the position without resigning as a justice or judge altogether.

February 21, 2008

Sablan: Stop using public funds for 'donations'

A freshman lawmaker has taken issue with the legislators' practice of using public funds for "donations." Rep. Tina Sablan said that the Legislature could reduce its own budget if members stopped "donating" money using taxpayer dollars. "My position is that if we donate money or volunteer our time for any cause, we should do so out of our own pockets and on our own time—not in our official capacities as members of the House, but in our private capacities as members of this community. In other words, 'donations' using public funds are not donations at all, but an unfair and selective allocation of taxpayer dollars," she said.

Mayor pushes mining of lava rocks on Pagan

Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisakan has asked the CNMI government to look into the possibility of mining not just pozzolan, but also lava rocks, on Pagan. The mayor, in a letter to Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario, said the government should assess the "market potentials" of Pagan's lava rock as a construction material. Citing a field survey and study by EFC Engineers and Architects, Taisakan said that the huge deposits of lava rocks exist on Pagan, covering about half the area of the air strip on the island.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting today

All Kagman schools (Kagman High School, Cha Cha Jr. High School, and Kagman Elementary School) will have a joint PTSA meeting today, Feb. 24, 2014, from 6pm to 7pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

The Joint Kagman PTSA meeting is held every last Monday of the month and will alternate campuses. This month, the Kagman High School culinary arts class will be hosting refreshments. All PTSA attendees will get to try the delectable treats so don't be left out! Come to the KHS Café Monday at 6pm and support your kids in school!

For more information, call

KHS Main Office at 237-3840, Cha Cha Jr. High School at 664-4100 or Kagman Elementary School at 664-3911. (PR)

MHS PTSA meeting on Wednesday

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are invited to attend the MHS PTA meeting this Wednesday Feb. 26, 2014, at 6:30pm in the MHS Dolphin Theatre. We will get an update on MHS administration, programs, and future events with reports from Student Council and the Parent Advisory Council meeting. Show your support for your Mighty Dolphin and their school by being an active member of the MHS PTA. (PR)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Public Notice – Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Public Comments
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - October 4, 2013 minutes
- IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
 - A. CMS 2567 Dashboard for Dialysis & Hospital
 - B. Financial Report for FY 2013
 - C. Financial Report for 1st Quarter FY 2014
 - D. EHR Comprehensive Report for FY 2013 & FY 2014 Project Plan & Budget
 - E. CUC Payment Plan & Litigation Update
 - F. MPLT Loan Extension
 - G. Revenue Collection Report for FY 2013
 - H. Revenue Collection Report for FY 2014
 - I. CEO Annual Report & Performance Plan for 2014
 - J. Department Heads Annual Reports & Performance Plans for 2014
 - K. Public Health Annual Report FY 2013 & Performance Plan for 2014
 - L. Physician Recruitment
 - M. Medical Staff Credentialing Report
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Department & Divisions Performance Plans for FY 2014
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Strategic Plan Update
 - B. Procurement Equipment
 - C. HVAC
 - D. Key Position Recruitment Update (CFO, DON, DPH Administrator, Hospital Administrator, QA Manager, Medical Staff, Compliance Mgr., Facilities Engineer)
 - E. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
 - F. ICS Collection
- VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
 - Credentialing of Medical Staff
 - Radiology
 - Litigation Update
- IX. MISCELLANEOUS
 - A. Next Meeting
 - B. Adjournment

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 57th birthday to Ramon P. Crisostimo! God bless you. Love, Carmen, Shar, Reina, Tina, Roy, Jr, Draven, and Kobo.



Happy birthday to our daddy, Myron Laniyo, who is celebrating his birthday today, Feb. 24! We wish you the best on your special day and may the good Lord bless you always! We love you forever! Greetings come from KaiLin.



Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
Saipan, As Terlajic Campus
Tel: 234-5498 Fax: (670) 235-7601

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE "USED VEHICLES" NMC-PAN 14-001

This is to inform the general public that Northern Marianas College (NMC) will be conducting a One Day Sealed Bid Auction on NMC ROTA. The auction will be held on Tuesday, February 25th, 2014 at the NMC ROTA Instructional Site, building B.

Bids submission is due not later than 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 25th, 2014. Any bids received after 9:00 a.m. will not be accepted. Bid Opening will start at 1:00 p.m.

The auction shall be made individually. Minimum bids are set for the vehicles. All vehicles are sold "As Is" and "Where Is" and without Warranty. The bidders is required to pay 20% down payment in US Currency in the form of a check made payable to the Northern Marianas College. Funds or checks will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Balance shall be payable within two (2) calendar days from auction closing date. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment shall be in Cashier Check or Money Order payable to NMC.

The used vehicles may be inspected at the NMC, Rota Instructional Site by contacting Ms. Evelyn Mendiola at telephone number (670) 532-9477 and/or Robert Suzuki (670) 234-5498 Ext. 682334 Fax (670) 235-7601 or email robert.suzuki@marianas.edu or anita.camacho@marianas.edu to get information and instructions.

Interested individuals must register and pick up a NMC Sealed Bid Form at NMC Rota, Rota Instructional Site commencing 9:00AM, Wednesday January 29, 2014.

ss/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Property Manager

Over 7K Japanese students in the last 28 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A simple tie-up guaranteed by a piece of document resulted in an unprecedented 28-year relationship between two schools and visits to the CNMI of more than 7,000 Japanese students.

Kuniko Sasaki, director of the Seisa High School, shared with *Saipan Tribune* that it was through a resolution passed by the CNMI Legislature 28 years ago that opened the gates for her institution to have its first trip to Saipan in 1986.

"It was a beautiful beginning, and we're very thankful for the opportunity," said Sasaki, as she shared memorable experiences accumulated through 28 years of annual visits to the CNMI.

Sasaki said that, according to Seisha High School records, more than 7,000 students have experienced "island paradise" in the Commonwealth. She's optimistic that more will be added to this growing list as Seisa High made the sister-school agreement with MHS a "forever commitment" with her institution.

"That will never change...because our partnership with MHS is more than a sister-school, but a real family. We want this commitment to last forever," Sasaki said, while seated beside her counterpart, Marianas High School principal Cherlyn Ca-



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Some students of Japan's Seisa High School pose for a group photo during Friday's cultural day celebration at Marianas High School campus.

brera, last Friday.

She pointed out that even her institution's alumni have been coming back to Saipan because they were inspired by their high school experience.

Sasaki shared that the main goal of bringing her students to the island is to promote understanding and appreciation of each other's differences and

commonalities. She shared that his "cultural exchange" with MHS has proven effective in promoting "unity and peace."

Friday marked the start of the annual cultural exchange between the two schools. This year has a total of 205 delegates. Among the highlights of Friday's celebration at the MHS campus were the demonstra-

tion of both Japanese and local cultures, including games and dances.

"It's a big day for us! Our students are always looking forward to this celebration. I see smiles on their faces and just seeing these students interacting with each other, that really for me is the highlight of this celebration," said Cabrera.

Saipan Tribune learned that MHS last sent a group of students to Seisa High School three years ago. The school has decided to revive the tradition for its local students by next winter.

Cabrera herself participated in the Japan trip—both as a student and a teacher. She described the experience as both

memorable and truly educational.

Like Sasaki, Cabrera reaffirmed MHS' commitment to a lifetime partnership with Seisa High.

In two years time, Seisa is planning for a bigger delegation, to celebrate the 30th year since both schools started the cultural exchange program.

Kanoa Resort Saipan

Our resort is looking for a dynamic candidate with a strong and all around experience in Sports and Recreation at a supervisory level. The Sports and Recreation Supervisor shall assist in leading, developing and implementing activities that appeal to our customers.

As a Sports and Recreations Supervisor, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Complete needs assessments to determine how often activities will be offered, how seasons will affect these activities and what space is available for participants.
- Research possible activity ideas, trying or sampling new activities and evaluating them as needed. Group activities may include sporting activities such as beach volleyball or beginner swimming lessons, games such as trivia, events such as karaoke nights or wine tastings, or activities such as volleyball and dancing lessons.
- Create an activity schedule that reflects the Resort's needs. Activities must vary to ensure the schedule appeals to as many guests as possible.
- Conceptualize activities which include but not limited to: kids club, sports activities, guest incentives, special packages, cultural activities, fitness center, corporate events and tournaments.
- Supervise other recreational staff members including life guards, S&R staff and other employees.
- Train other employees as necessary, introducing them to procedures such as pool safety or new activities as needed.
- May need to help update websites, produce announcements/newsletters or make calendars to highlight specific events.
- Additionally, these directors may send out invitations, publish brochures and update signage.
- Maintain safe work environment. Maintain and develop the Resort's existing customer markets.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education:
- At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at supervisory capacity.
- Knowledge of hotel operations; departmental planning; conceptualizing, development and coordination of projects; guest relations; sports ethics/rules; first aid/CPR and life-saving techniques; computer operation; marketing/promotions; people management.
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 26, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

TO: RAMON M. SAKISAT and the ESTATE of FRANCISCA T. SAKISAT:

You are in default in your Promissory Note date October 9, 1985, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Mariana Islands Housing Authority, now known as the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 005 I 523, situated in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's official Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage:	October 9, 1985; \$42,000.00
(c) Amount due for principal:	\$8,308.24 as of Feb. 1, 2014
(d) Amount due for interest:	\$23,170.34 as of Feb. 1, 2014
(e) Daily accruing interest:	\$6.35
(f) Late charges	-0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$31,478.58 as of February 1, 2014 plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fee, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose.

Ti un komle I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note)ni un fitma gi Oktubre dia 9, 1985, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma asegurao I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega I empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Mariana Islands Housing Authority, pagu ma tungo kumu Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sito numeru 005 I 523, ni gaigi Saipan, Note Marianas ni ha konsiste un aria 748 quadro metro, mas pat menus, ni anak gi Cadastral Plat numeru 2084/82, i orihinat ni ma rehista gi Land Registry kumu document numeru 14232 gi Mayo dia 14, 1982, guih i deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasyon.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena:	Oktubre dia 9, 1985; \$42,000.00
(c) Kantida un debi para principat:	\$8,308.24 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014
(d) Kantida un debi para interes:	\$23,170.34 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014
(e) Interes kada dia:	\$6.35
(f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges):	-0-

Yan ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan I resanable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias despues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asentadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infototma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasyon pot I dibi-mu despues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, , bai in nai' I hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasyon ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

Su Seguro Servidor,
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Violence disrupts Ukraine's future

The flaming and bloody images from Kiev's Independence Square are profoundly disturbing. As is the mounting death toll as anti-government demonstrators clash with Ukraine's increasingly despotic regime.

After 25 citizens were reported dead earlier this week, a truce apparently was called, but lasted barely a few hours. More citizens and police perished in the battles Thursday. Rooftop snipers were seen picking off protesters. A wounded young medic tweeted her impending death.

European diplomats pressed for talks to ease the conflict and on Thursday announced sanctions against Ukrainian officials. President Barack Obama sternly urged the Ukrainian government to back off and "show restraint." Russian President Vladimir Putin, who'd be happy to reknit the scattered nations of the Soviet empire, reportedly sent in Russian special forces to help the locals quell the rebellion and must have known that his marauding Cossacks assaulted those vocal musical pests, Pussy Riot, in Sochi.

Putin and Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovich, blame "extremists" for the violence, a contention that seems disingenuous at best, given the swift fury that has rained down on Independence Square and the perplexing inability of the regime to negotiate. Opponents have seized government buildings in other regions of Ukraine, and have called unceasingly for Yanukovich's resignation.

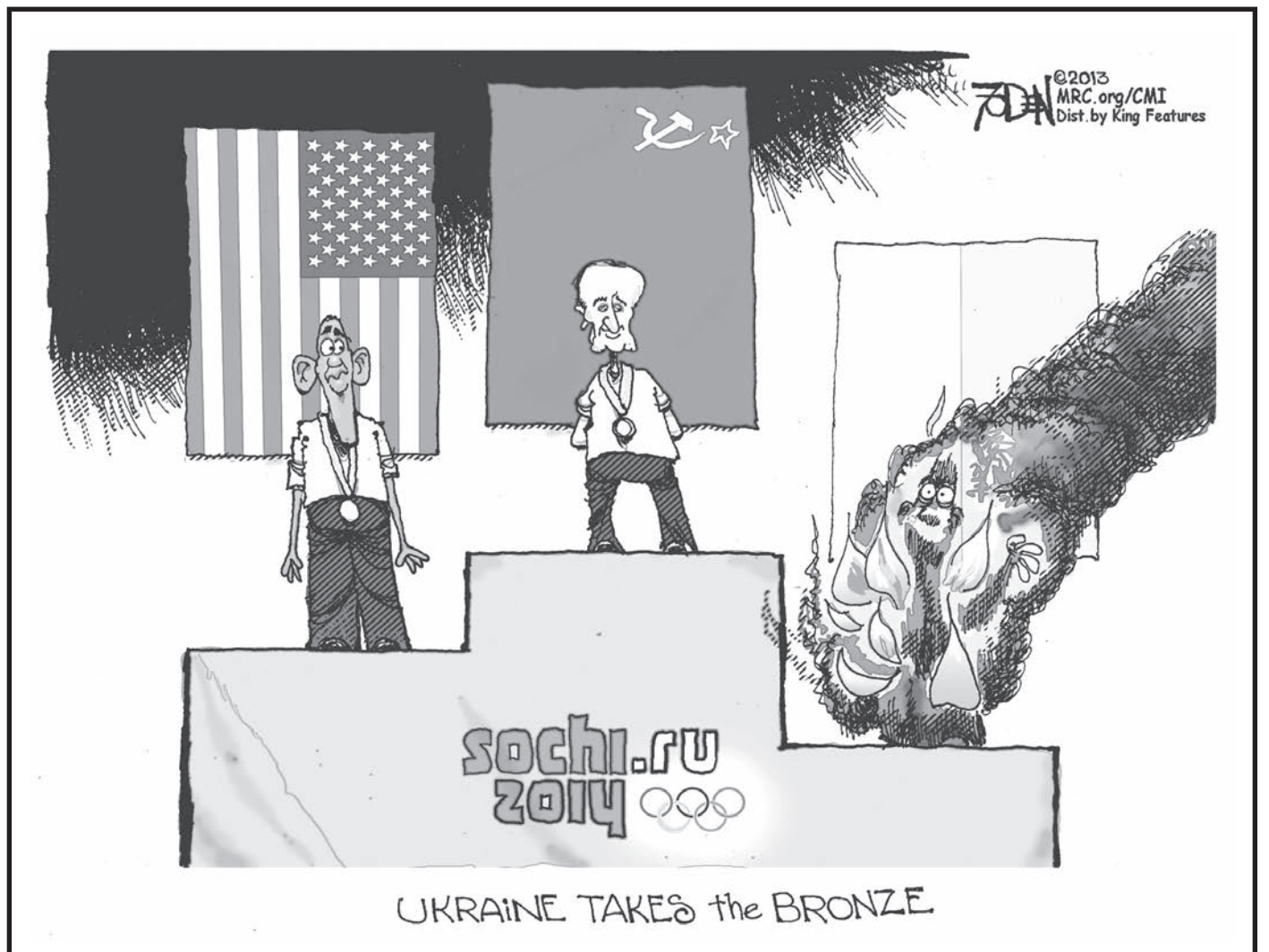
This latest drama began last fall when Ukraine, on the verge of signing a trade pact with the European Union, was lured by the promise of \$15 billion in loans back to the Kremlin's orbit. It's shades of the cold war as hot Russian blood stands up to apparent Western civility.

But it's also more perilous than that. Some have mentioned that the tremors in Ukraine foretell a Yugoslavia-style breakup; others see a reverse domino effect, as former Soviet states are hauled back in by Putin's octopus arms.

Like the massive populist uprisings in Egypt, Thailand, Venezuela and other countries, and like the unresolved and horrendous civil upheavals in Syria, the Central African Republic, Iraq and elsewhere, Ukraine represents another destabilized and distracting danger zone.

All require careful, measured and thorough responses, a delicate use of diplomacy and a confident sense that democracy is a hard-won and worthy goal.

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CRC & the C/ZRC

Church folks in our Pacific readership might have heard of EI (associates of the late Jude Samson of Majuro might remember the Singapore International Training Institute, ITI '71, he attended), or secular folks, of the ICA (Tony deBrum of climate change fame, the Kabuas, and members of MI Nijitela of the late '70s knew them), which might also be known in Nauru, Fiji, the Samoas, Tonga, Kiribati, and Hawaii.

In Majuro, we had a Human Development Project (that Pastor Samson helped launch) and one of its public faces was TASC, Trans Atoll Service Corporation, its staff known as the "Blue Shirts" for wearing navy blue attires. I was a Pacific Blue Shirt in 1981-83 when I lived in Majuro and met Micronesian Seminar brain Fr. Francis X. Hazel, at the SJ residence in Pohnapei.

I am in the International Advisory Board of the Realistic Living Institute that normally meets in Bonham, Texas, though on a couple of occasions we met near Colorado Springs and another time in Houston. Most members graduated from a program of the Ecumenical Institute (EI), the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), and/or the Order:Ecumenical (O:E). The RLI meets twice each year in a symposium of its members, and its formation is called the Christian Resurgence Circle (CRC).

Three paragraphs to get me started. I am going for the CRC.

I will start with the frivolous. That would be the Cannabis Resurgence Circle. There is enough debate going on to not bother saying too much on this one. Suffice to say that in 1989 when I first visited Saipan, plants by Lake Susupe belonged to this family and its use was widespread then, and more so now.

The Consciousness Resurgence Circle is nebulous, though touching on almost all traditions as the "self being aware of itself as a self watching itself be a self" has become a contemporary definition of being a spirit.

That brings me to the consciousness game I had with China Resurgence Circle tied to Zhongguoren Resurgence Circle, the C/ZRC in our title, when I taught almost 280 Chinese students per semester in Oral English. "We want them to talk, but what will they talk about," one teacher asked. I responded, "Why not a subject they do not need to read about because they are already experts on it, themselves."

I got everyone to introduce self. The method was on being aware of what was experienced with five senses, describing them with words and numbers, then expressing what was felt in the midst of an experience, into how it developed that allowed exchange of wisdom and learning through cognitive and social relation functions, and finally, what the above required that needed to be done. A lifetime curriculum, I got some 280 brains to figure out how to talk about their awareness of themselves.

I transposed the word *Zhongguoren* in place of "Chinese" to be more accurate of the nationhood known elsewhere as China. The

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



Chinese do not call their country "China" (Qin/Chin to Persians, Sina to Rome, and Chine to the French) but as *Zhongguo*, the middle realm. This is graphically depicted in the character for *Zhong*, a rectangle with a slash straight downward in the middle, used for "China." My pedagogy is one on self-awareness, or the awareness of awareness, or the consciousness of consciousness, as the content of talking in English.

Now, to the RLI's Christian Resurgence Circle that is ongoing but in baby-steps stage, that sees itself as a disciplined group of 3-12 persons meeting weekly as an intensely participatory nurture group, loyal to the history-changing and transformative event of dying to illusions and rising to authentic life—an event rehearsed in the story of Jesus-as-Messiah (Christos in Greek), transposing into contemporary wedgeblade sense of radical social responsibility, individually and corporately, for themselves on behalf of the welfare and well-being of Planet Earth, and the marginalized and destitute of the times.

Talk about a mouthful. The above is one sentence as a paragraph, easily a summary for a whole book of 20 chapters.

This will be my last year covenanted with the group since their task is rooted in the shadows of Christendom, and I intend to monk it in the Far East. Most of RLI now have grey temples and are living the sunset of their years. The metaphorical translation of Christian scriptures has been an integral part of the CRC experiment, a valid and delightful one, but the recovery of relevant Christian symbols, let alone the future of the next Christianity, do not stir my blood facing the requirements of 1.38 billion Zhongguoren. However, the question for me as a peripatetic pedagogue and a member of history's Invisible College is: Where in the *Zhongyang* dispensation is there a "history-changing and transformative event of dying to illusions and rising to authentic life" story? Reality always answers that life-affirming question, and it is the basis to continue with more depth and intensity on the baby-steps already taken by C/ZRC.

Now, about the Commonwealth Resurgence Circle, an ongoing disciplined nurture and consciousness group of 3-13 folks laying their lives in the barbwires of Micronesian history to create the new...Never mind. Forget I asked.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It must be wreckovery!

It's good to know that one newly confirmed member for CUC's board with superb credentials on power generation is ready to move in. A critical assessment would be made of the agency, including the competence of its management team, among others.

Use of alternative energy would eventually be dealt with but it isn't the single pill that heals all illnesses either. A fine-toothed comb is needed to realistically review the economics of renewable energy from A-Z. The new member is very familiar with these forms of energy and offers straightforward views on issues based on a set of facts, not masterful spins.

A realistic plan on power generation—a combination of fossil fuel and alternative energy—ought to assist the community Marianas-wide. This isn't an easy undertaking in that for the first time we would be seeing a realistic and thoughtfully organized plan to deal with the current and future power generation needs of the CNMI. A plan is a must for we no longer can inch our way in the dark.

Indeed, we have become impatient, what with cuts in pension pay, new hikes in health premiums that adversely affect families, another increase in the price of basic goods and Alan Fletcher's power bills. Is there anything else we may have missed in the cocktail of increases? Did someone say salaries have remained stagnant or the same for nearly a decade? *Dalai 'ste!*

When our people are floored—viciously suffer from familial economic hardship, triggered by the unexpected increases in most basic familial needs—it's difficult neutralizing the beast. It's even harder quelling people's explosive reactions, fuming over a parade of increases against their wallets.

Politicians have wasted four years toying with disorientation and indecisions over the cost of power and other equally significant issues. If there's any group of people who have mastered the art of escaping or disappearing acts, you could easily seek free instructions from 31 folks on the hill. Exasperating! This mess too shall pass this November!

As politicians devolve into the usual mediocrity, the politi-

cal barometer against them gallops quickly upwards. Moreover, conditions don't offer any room to encourage a fresh batch of investments so the CNMI begins the long walk to economic recovery. It's more in the realm of a word coined by an economist, "wreckovery."

Policy instability

Before initial construction started, we begged major hotels to put up place their own power and water system. Millions of dollars were invested in this system that includes upgrades along the way.

We recently discovered that we now have surplus power supply run by generators that qualify for inclusion in the Marianas Museum. There's complaint too that power users have cut down use, thus the surplus. Well, if it costs more than an arm and a leg doesn't it make sense that consumers learn when not to use power? It deals with depleted family pocketbooks, right?

The midstream shift in boat (policy) is a fearful and devastating signal to investors of instability in the CNMI. Since when is Big Brother supposed to dictate and invade the conduct of business with private industries? Is the loss of base load the fault of private industries? Is it really hard understanding that hardship with the high cost of power rates has forced power ratepayers to institute full conservation measures at home?

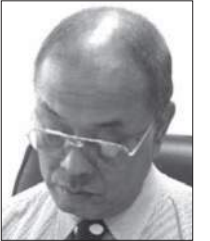
The wild swing of policy instability only exacerbates the loss of the CNMI's competitive and comparative edge as an investment venue. Tourism has just picked up and you really want to milk the industry from its recent resurgence? Can't we give it time to stabilize? Isn't it a fickle industry? Did you read what happened in Guam this week pertaining to the decline in visitor arrival from the Land of the Rising Sun? It depicts the fickleness of the industry.

Finally, for as long as the CNMI soothes its feathers to avoid addressing predatory policies now in the books, you can kiss off the return of lasting or anchor investments. It begins with fully thought out sound policies. None is after long-term land leases but nearly everyone is looking for a business-friendly and stable

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



venue that offers appreciable return on investments. This is what I'd dub "Policy 101-A" all policymakers must learn forthwith.

As gubernatorial bets surface

The die is basically cast on who the gubernatorial prospects are for this election year. With the exception of the now Groggy Old Party wrestling with a likely divisive primary, most other bets are no longer on the fence but at the starting gate ready for the marathon.

As the boys hit the ground, I quiz what would be their narrative sufficient to persuade heavily disgruntled voters to rally behind their candidacy. What realistic solution do you have for the 25-percent cut in pensions, huge increase in health premiums flooring families and retirees, increase of consumer power bills, and impending increase in basic commodities?

It's one difficult campaign trail to walk this year, especially if you're an incumbent and must necessarily take the blows from the villages. If you're a registered member of the "Do-Nothing" troops with nothing to hang your hat on, then you've basically sealed your own political doom. If you're a newcomer, tighten your belt buckle for whatever is hurled against your fragile ego.

In sum, our people have pined for leadership, someone with a vision and spiritual commitment to turn our canoe of bankruptcy around before it sinks completely. Believe it or not, voters are fully informed and conversant what the substantive issues are and ready to rap with you before a final verdict is issued to wrap up your career with finality.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A waste of taxpayers' money

An elected AG should know when to say no to governor? It is easier said than done. A sitting governor has millions of dollars at his/her disposal each fiscal year. I assume that more ungraded full-time employee positions will be allocated to the families and friends of the elected attorney general. A person who got elected to be a governor in the CNMI in the past had to have some type of knowledge on how to persuade others to follow his/her lead. Elected attorneys general will not necessarily guarantee that they will conform for the betterment of the whole.

The proposal for a runoff election for the attorney general in the CNMI is at best a waste of taxpayers' money. The chances of an individual garnering a majority of the votes for the attorney general elected position in a given CNMI general election is zero to none. It translates to more money from our near bankrupt government to fork out thousands, if not hundreds of thousand of dollars each general election. I suppose the individuals who were behind the proposal have no comprehension of how much our people have to endure the hardship that they face in their daily lives in the CNMI. Maybe, because the money that will be allocated to entertain the attorney general runoff election appears to benefit the election workers. Absentee ballots were not received in the past, registered mailed were signed for by the election office and no one has a clue as to who signed for it. Voter registration forms were being returned to sender because no one at the election office picked them up at the post office.

Before proposing a runoff for the CNMI attorney general's position, please have the decency to be accountable for the absentee ballots you sent out to us and the voter's registration via the U.S. Postal System Registered Mail sent to the election office, because how many candidates had been shortchanged in the past for the mismanagement at our election office. At the end of the day, it is best to have an elected attorney general in the CNMI, but not at the expense of our people.

Segundo Castro
Marpo Valley, Tinian

Bluer than blue

It appears that many leaders do not understand how to create an investment-friendly environment. The idea to put up a policy to require businesses to hook up to CUC is one of those policies. If there is a business in the very near future who wants to build a resort completely powered by alternative energy, are we to tell that investor to shut up and hook up to CUC? What is happening here? Is that how stupid our leaders are? Who are these bunch of leaders anyway? Are they educated enough to understand the impact of the actions or policies they want to implement? Stupid is the only word I can use to describe the idea at this point and stupid are those who agree to impose such a policy.

On another subject, the sky is blue just as the ocean is here on Rota. Many days, not on the actual schedule of the cargo vessel servicing Rota, the sea is very calm but because it is not the actual schedule for the shipping company, they couldn't care less if the people of Rota suffer. Anyone should tell me that that is not a fact. I surely hope I am wrong. It has been over three months now that the cargo vessel called port. The governor declared Rota under a significant state of emergency. I do not know what exactly this means and to what extent this will address the problem. The people are not suffering from a lack of food but from very high food prices because

everything has to be flown in. Yes, perhaps there is a shortage of some items, those that cannot be airlifted.

What we hope is to address the underlying cause of the problem as this is not only a one time incident but an annual recurring problem. Even with a proper cargo vessel, the existing port infrastructure at times is not ideal for normal operation. I was the operation manager of M/V *Celeste*, a cargo vessel calling Rota during the '90s, and found many times the Rota port had a problem. A vessel like M/V *Celeste* will help but will not solve the underlying problem.

Now, with the present shipping company that last called Rota back on Nov. 18, 2013, I hope they have a sense of corporate responsibility as the entire people of Rota is counting on them to make an effort to call port. I know of countless times or days when the sky was blue, the ocean was perfectly blue with waves at less than a foot or two that any vessel can easily slide into the port but, of course, it is not their schedule and the money involved is not significant. God shine your light on these people. Shine your light on the Rota leaders to open their eyes wider. Everything seems to be blue.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo 1, Rota

'Tautaumona' stirs up Rota residents

For the past few days, the screen name Tautaumona would comment on issues relating the Island of Rota. It is understood that freedom of speech and debating important issues are fair game. In this case Tautaumona took it to the next level to where he/she disrespected the island of Rota and its people by saying that, with the food shortage on Rota, we should be eating boonie dogs and toads and continues to do so.

Rota has abundant local food that will make your mouth water. People are misled when the newspaper states that Rota has no food. We do have food on the island. It is more like the essential needs that Rota is short off. For example; butane gas, laundry detergent, soy sauce, etc. Other than that, Rota has deer, fish, sweet potato, coconut crabs, and everyone's favorite, fruit bats, and much more.

Tautaumona also continues to criticize our senator, Sen. Victor B. Hocog. Yes, Sen. Hocog is bound to be criticized because of his position as a public servant. Although Sen. Hocog has been through many obstacles in his private life, he continues to focus on helping

his people. Yet folks like Tautaumona continue to stress their hatred of him and our people and what we have accomplished and will accomplish.

Since Tautaumona expresses his/her ungratified love for our island, we just want to say to him: On behalf of the people of Rota we want to express our sincere gratitude for motivating us more. We strive to move forward in the belief and hope that we will prevail no matter what the circumstance are. We are one people, one love and most of all we are Rota!






In closing we would like to remind everyone that Rota and its people will continue to display respect and humbleness to everyone who decides to make Rota their vacation destination or final destination. A great leader of Rota once said, "Rota is beautiful, Rota is friendly, and Rota is delicious!"

Garren M. Quitugua
Igua, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 81

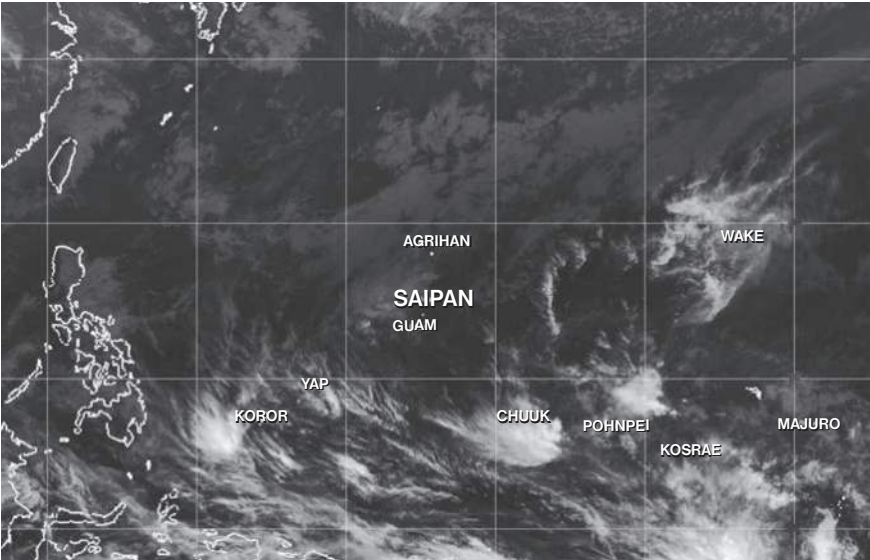
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 32
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 66
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 68
New York	Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 37
Paris	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 45
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 42
Rome	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 40
Salem	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 29
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 34
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲ 59 ▼ 35

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
2:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N168E across the northern Marianas just north of Saipan at 15N146E to end southwest of Koror at 5N132E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 450 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough curves eastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered south-southeast of Chuuk at 3N153E to end at EQ170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in three different areas along this trough. The first is southeast of Yap within 90 miles of a line from 8N139E to 3N141E. The second is near Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 5N151E to 10N161E and the third is southeast of Kosrae south of a line from 5N164E to 2N172E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers just east of Majuro to beyond the date line within 150 miles of a line from 9N172E to 5N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:30 AM	1:12 PM
Tuesday	2:28 AM	2:12 PM
Wednesday	3:25 AM	3:14 PM
Thursday	4:21 AM	4:16 PM
Friday	5:14 AM	5:18 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

28 years of 'healing the world'



THOMAS A. MANGLONA

Some 200 students from Seisai High School in Japan and dozens of Marianas High School students perform Michael Jackson's *Heal the World* Saturday night, concluding the ceremony.

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

Thunderous drums resonated throughout the Saipan World Resort's Wave Jungle stage last Saturday as members of the *Dako-on* performed their award winning traditional drum performance.

The *Dako-on* is a renowned drum group from Seisa High School and has already performed in a number of venues in Japan and around the globe. The group was a part of 200 other exchange students from three Seisa high schools in Japan that stayed on island for a few days to participate in Marianas High School's 37th annual Cultural Heritage Day and even enjoy some of Saipan's prime tourist destinations, like the Thursday Street Market.

This year's batch of Japanese students marked the 28th year of the school's "Participate and Learn" cultural exchange program with MHS.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera said the program keeps improving every year. "There is a lot of excitement from both parts [MHS students and foreign students]."

The exchange students also visited San Antonio Elementary School.

About 7,500 Japanese students have visited Saipan under the PAL program over the past two decades, according to Seisa board chair Hajime Inoue. He told *Saipan Tribune* that the ultimate goal of the organization is to "make peace and have the students make friends despite cultural differences." He added that many of the students enjoyed their short stay and plan to visit in the near future.

Program director Koniko Sasaki shared that several Saipan students will be traveling to Japan next January to ski. Stu-



THOMAS A. MANGLONA

Marianas High School junior Raelyn Rangamar and her Japanese exchange student partner pose for a photo last Saturday night at Saipan World Resort's Wave Jungle stage area.

dents from MHS were not able to participate in the ski trip last year due to financial constraints, according to Sasaki.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the administration and school will work

diligently to make the trip possible because it would be "a great experience for the kids."

When asked why PAL designated Saipan as its main destination for student exchange, Sasaki said its close proxim-

ity is an integral factor when it comes to selecting an exchange destination.

"Saipan is rich in World War II history and hundreds of Japanese citizens were a part of the island's history as well. They

can learn a lot," she added.

Learning Saipan's history and exchanging culture is something that she said will promote peace between Japan and the rest of the world. "We like to teach our students not to fight anymore and that there should be no more war. We tell them to seek peace and that we have to respect others," she said. "That is why we are here."

Seisa School principal Hajime Kanako was also at the closing ceremony last Saturday to bid their Saipan counterparts farewell. "MHS is the best school for our program. People are good, kind, and hospitable. They have good character, which makes us very happy," he said.

MHS junior Raelyn Rangamar said that communication with her Japanese partner was an obstacle but it was still fun for her. "I think it is a good way to make new friends and that it is really fun to get to know all of them."

Her Japanese partner, Takatuki Suzuki, said that his short stay on Saipan was "good."

Another MHS student, Benedict Obambo, said the experience was "alright and pretty fun."

Ayumi Nakijima, a 9-year *Dako-on* performer and Seisa High School student herself, said that her experience on Saipan was unforgettable. "Everyone was so welcoming and clapped for me," she said. "I had a good time."

Of course, all good times must come to an end. The 200 Japanese exchange students and their Marianas High School student counterparts concluded the night with a poignant song performance of Michael Jackson's *Heal the World*. Misty-eyed students from Japan and Saipan hugged each other that night and said their last good-byes, with hopes of seeing each other next year in Japan's ice-cold weather and powdery snow.



Public School System and Marianas High School officials pose for a photo with PAL officials and Seisa High School's *Dako-on* drumming group.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA

'Strengthening families through parent leadership'



Participants and attendees of the 10th Annual Parent Leadership Month Workshop have their picture taken on Saturday at the Kagman Community Center.

JAYSON CAMACHO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 100 parents, children, and community members attended the Division of Youth Service Parent Education Program's 10th Annual Parent Leadership Month Workshop on Saturday at the Kagman Community Center.

The workshop started at 7:30am and ended 3pm with various divisions of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs putting up exhibits and organizations showcasing their outreach programs. Other government and non-government groups also put up informational booths.

The workshop also held breakout sessions that taught attendees about outreach programs on Saipan, including parenting strategies, health and chronic diseases, emergency planning, and teen parenting. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks were also provided throughout the workshop. There was also entertainments and raffle drawing for prizes.

DYS administrator Vivian T. Sablan was thrilled to be hosting the workshop in Kagman. "This is the first time we have held it here in Kagman and we've always wanted to serve the Kagman community closer to home and DCCA got assigned to the center so we took it as an opportunity," she said.

One of the highlights of the workshops was the nomination for parent recognition, which recognized the parents of children from various schools. Some 38 parents were given certificates of recognition during the workshop.

One of the nominees, Dandan PTSA president Melrosa H. Rebuenog, said she was surprised that she got nominated since it's her first time there. "I'm really thankful for them recognizing me as a parent," she said.

Arthur Anda, another parent nominee for Green Meadow School, said, "I feel honored for being recognized, because it's

also good for the community where he comes from.



The booth of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

JAYSON CAMACHO

also good for the community where he comes from.

Lucy Norita-Shilling, who led the breakout sessions on parenting strategies, was so enthusiastic with the turnout that she felt the sessions were too short.

"I love teaching, it's my passion. I feel good and since these are short sessions I feel that it's too short because it usually lasts up to three hours" she said.

Norita-Shilling teaches the Early Childhood Systematic Training for Effective Parenting and Active Parenting classes for the Parent Education Program of the Division of Youth Services.

Amber Lynn Mendiola, educator for the Non-Communicable Disease Health and Lifestyle, did minor workouts for the Let's Move Marianas Campaign and presentations on chronic diseases.

"I felt good about the workshop; parents were very cooperative and responsive," Mendiola said.

Public School System's behavior specialist Lynn Corella led sessions on parent counseling, while Homeland Security and Emergency Management did a presentation on planning for emergencies and getting ready for natural disasters.

The Parent Leadership

Month Workshop was made possible by various DYS planning committees and outreach organizations and took two months to prepare. The main focus of the workshop was "strengthening families through parent leadership."

Parents Anonymous Inc. created National Parent Leadership Month in February 2004 to recognize courage and drive on parents who have reached out to make improvements in their families and communities.

On Jan. 31 2014, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider signed the proclamation designating February as Parent Leadership Month.



The COTA booth informed attendees of the services the agency provides.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Regents want six-year audit of NMC Foundation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents disclosed Friday the lack of documents that are vital to the transparent operation of the NMC Foundation.

William Torres, chair of the board's fiscal committee, recently conducted an initial check of the foundation's operation and found out that it doesn't have key reports, including audits for many years.

In his report to the full board on Friday, Torres strongly recommended that the foundation undergo a management audit, an internal control audit, a financial audit, and an investment audit for the last six years beginning January 2007 through December 2013.

The NMC Board of Regents established the NMC Foundation in 1999 for the purpose of acquiring, managing, and disbursing funds from alternative sources to support the advancement of NMC's educational programs and services. Its primary task is to handle a federal endowment fund of \$3 million for the college.

Torres disclosed that his committee found that the foundation has over \$6 million in its corpus—an amount he described as healthy and growing. Despite the lack of financial reports, Torres commended the foundation officers for keeping a healthy portfolio for the college.

However, Torres said it would be of further help if the foundation would have necessary documentations for a “transparent and accountable” operation of

the non-profit organization.

“The committee noticed that there's no annual report, which is important for transparency and accountability of the operation of the statutory foundation of the college. There's also no readily available schedule of expenses, which is a typical financial report,” disclosed Torres.

He said the fiscal committee has already asked NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart to produce the pertinent documentations, being the board's direct link to the foundation. Hart sits as an ex-officio member of the NMC Foundation.

Besides the lack of audits and other reports, Torres added that there is also no memorandum of agreement between the college and the foundation. Necessary amendments to the foundation statute have not been properly registered. A policy on donations and gifts received were also non-existent.

“The idea is to make this foundation to continue to grow and remain healthy. We're expecting the president to provide us the necessary documentations we requested because ultimately, the board has authority over this foundation,” said Torres.

The NMC Foundation was left with only two board members over a year ago due to several resignations. Hart reported Friday that there are now nine board members and an executive director, Richard Villagomez, was brought in last year.

Hart said the MOU is now in draft form and would soon be acted upon by the board.

“The foundation is really trying to move aggressively now. We're presently developing the MOU, which is common between the college and the foundation,” she said.

Subsidiary foundation

Torres clarified Friday that the Board of Regents, which is

only statutorily authorized to have oversight on the NMC Foundation, has no business with the dealings of a subsidiary foundation that was created only a year ago.

“Is that [new foundation] moving ahead?” asked regent Elizabeth Rechebei.

Hart said the “new founda-

tion” was patterned after the existing one at the University of Guam, which is primarily tasked for operation while the other is created solely for the purpose of fundraising. Hart emphasized that there are donors who are uncomfortable in making their donations public. This is taken care of by the

new foundation.

“The board's fiscal committee wants to be clear once and for all that our oversight is on the statutory foundation [NMC Foundation] only and that's where we need to focus on. For the new foundation, the BOR has no business [with that],” according to Torres.

Ex-CRM official gets 3 years probation for another Internet scam

The federal court imposed Friday a three-year probation sentence on former Coastal Resources Management official Benny K. Pangelinan for wire fraud for his involvement in yet another Internet scam.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona told Pangelinan he is an educated, helping man but somehow his sense of right or wrong is misplaced.

“You need to change your way,” Manglona told him.

Manglona said if Pangelinan wants to visit his family members in the U.S. mainland, he needs to take care of his family first on Saipan whom he victimized.

Pangelinan is strictly prohibited from accessing the Internet during his probation and is required to perform 50 hours of community service, and pay restitution to three victims.

Before the sentence was handed down, Pangelinan

pleaded for no jail time, saying he has complied with majority of what U.S. Probation Office required him to do.

“I am serious about it. I am okay and a well disciplined person,” he said.

Manglona asked how he would pay his victims. He said his children are raising money to help him out.

“I promised no more illegal activity,” he said.

Last October, Pangelinan pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of wire fraud in connection with his new involvement in an Internet scam.

According to the U.S. government, Pangelinan transmitted or caused to be transmitted a total of \$3,770 through wire transfers to Malaysia and Australia in 2011.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe said that Pangelinan participated in the scheme from Oct. 14, 2010, to Oct. 31, 2011,

obtaining money and property by means of fraudulent pretenses and promises.

Pangelinan approached friends and family members, including three victims, and told them that he was going to receive large sums of money from off-island sources.

Last November, U.S. Probation asked for the revocation of Pangelinan's supervised release after he was found accessing the Internet again in San Jose on Oct. 10, 2013. The court granted the request and added 50 hours of community service to the Pangelinan's release conditions.

U.S. Probation determined that Pangelinan paid his special assessment fee in full and that his retirement wages are being garnished at a rate of \$400 a month as payment toward his restitution.

Pangelinan has also completed 200 hours of community service and submitted to the collection of a DNA sample.

In January 2007, a federal jury found Pangelinan guilty of wire fraud charges for defrauding potential investors and for his involvement in an Internet scam. He was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$129,250 in restitution to five victims.

In September 2011, the U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke Pangelinan's probation after finding out that he borrowed \$21,450 from a couple and received over \$11,000 from a family member, with promises to both that he will double their money.

In January 2012, the court placed Pangelinan in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General for hospitalization. The court had found the defendant in violation of the probation, but at the same time the judge determined that there is cause to believe that the defendant “is presently suffering from a mental disease or defect.” (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Retrial of ex-Corrections officer starts tomorrow

The retrial of Mariano Falig Jr., a former Corrections officer facing charges of distributing crystal methamphetamine, will start in federal court tomorrow, Tuesday.

The jury selection will be at 10am in the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton is counsel for the U.S. government. Attorney Bruce Berline is counsel for Falig.

In March 2013, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona declared a mistrial in Falig's case after the latter's counsel, Ramon K. Quichocho, disclosed at the time that he represents the prosecution's key witness in a family court proceeding.

Quichocho explained that during jury selection, the prosecution for the first time described a task force officer involved in the investigation as the son of Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan).

Quichocho said the task force officer is his client in a separate family court case in

the Superior Court.

Quichocho made the disclosure shortly after the court completed jury selection. Naughton urged Manglona to declare a mistrial and start over by appointing a new attorney for Falig.

Falig, after consulting with an independent and conflict-free counsel, consented to the declaration of a mistrial and retrial.

“Because Quichocho's error has tainted this case beyond salvaging, the court declares a mistrial,” said Manglona in the March 13, 2013, order.

The indictment charged Falig and Vicente Aldan Sablan with conspiracy to distribute “ice” and distribution of “ice.”

In addition, Falig was charged with possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime. The prosecution, however, dismissed this charge.

Sablan signed a plea deal with the U.S. government and entered a guilty plea. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



FOR THE REEFS

From left, Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula, Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Lori Faeth, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Eileen Sobock, Becky Lizama from Delegate Kilili Sablan's office, and Coastal Resources Management director Fran Castro gather for a photo at the conclusion of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Winter Meeting held on Feb. 20 at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mt. Carmel School teachers form book club

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Teachers at Mount Carmel School recently formed a book club in an effort to grow and improve their skills as professionals.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said Friday that beginning with Chip and Dan Heath's book, *Switch*, teachers have been utilizing their weekly in-service sessions to discuss the book's insights with each other and to explore ways that the book's lessons

can help them in and out of the classroom.

Switch uses current findings in psychological and sociological research to explain how individuals and organizations can successfully make positive changes. The book emphasizes that “for things to change, somebody somewhere has to start acting differently,” and offers research-based and evidence-driven techniques for initiating and sustaining successful change efforts.

Fifth grade teacher and 2007 AlumKnight Min Ji Han appre-

ciates the lessons she learned from *Switch*.

“What we're learning is not limited to education and can be applied to many other professions,” she said. “I especially like the focus on finding bright spots of change that you can duplicate; instead of focusing on what's wrong, we should focus on what's right.”

For Deleon Guerrero, the best way to help students become life-long learners is to be life-long learners ourselves and lead by example.

“By reading one book together and meeting each week to share our thoughts on the book

with each other, we are growing and thriving as a learning community,” according to Deleon Guerrero.

The MCS president disclosed that the move of the schoolteachers is in line with many schools across the nation that started their own book clubs to enhance teacher professional development.

According to the ASCD (formerly the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), “effective professional development in literacy must include a sustained, personal examination of our interaction with reading.”

Business

Italy's new premier sets to work as economy ails



Italian outgoing Premier Enrico Letta, left, hands over the cabinet minister bell to new Premier Matteo Renzi during the handover ceremony at Chigi Palace Premier's office, in Rome, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014.

ROME (AP)—Matteo Renzi became Italy's youngest premier on Saturday, promising a new era of stable government after using old-school politicking to engineer the ouster of a fellow Democrat he deemed too timid to get the nation back to work.

The unabashedly ambitious Renzi, 39, quit his post as Florence mayor to take up his first national government job, insist-

ing Italy's political leadership needed to be bolder. He tweeted before being sworn in that it be "tough" but "we'll do it."

The Italian economy is only just beginning to show signs of rebounding after several years of stagnation. Youth unemployment hovers around at 40 percent.

The new environment minister, Gian Luca Galletti, told Sky TG24 TV the down-to-business,

bluntly talking premier conducted his first Cabinet meeting "more like a board meeting."

Renzi has alienated some factions in his own party, because of the steely determination he used to dispatch predecessor Enrico Letta only days after publicly saying he would only seek the premiership through general elections.

The usually easy-going

Letta gave Renzi a chilly, limp handshake during a brief handover ceremony Saturday. Renzi forced a wan smile. Neither Democrat looked each other in the eyes.

That chilliness contrasts with the cordial relationship Renzi has been cultivating with the Democrats' arch rival, Silvio Berlusconi, the former premier and Italy's main conservative leader.

Shortly before he pushed Letta aside, Renzi cut a deal with Berlusconi to work together on electoral reform to reduce the influence of tiny parties on the government. Both men see an overhaul of election rules as po-

tentially positioning their rival forces for a more convincing victory at the ballot box.

While a tax fraud conviction keeps Berlusconi out of public office, the media mogul made clear Saturday he disagrees with Renzi's plans for elections as far off as 2018.

"You have democracy and a government of the people when the government is elected by the

citizens," Berlusconi said.

When Berlusconi agreed to the reform deal, Renzi had been pushing for elections immediately after the new rules were in place.

Letta had had a slim majority in the Senate, but Renzi might need defectors from the opposition if some of his own Democrats rebel against his heavy-handed leadership.

Oil train wrecks spur railroad safety measures

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Railroads that haul volatile crude shipments have reached an agreement with U.S. transportation officials to adopt wide-ranging, voluntary safety measures after a string of explosive and deadly accidents.

The deal signed Friday calls for oil trains to be slowed from a maximum of 50 to 40 miles per hour through major cities, more frequent track inspections and better emergency response planning along routes that carry trains hauling up to 3 million gallons of crude each.

The new safety steps would begin going into effect in late March and be fully in place by July 1.

After a boom in domestic drilling in recent years, oil trains now travel thousands of miles from oil producing areas, including the Northern Plains, to coastal refineries and shipping terminals along the Mississippi River and other major waterways.

The agreement does not resolve concerns over another hazardous fuel, ethanol, involved in a spate of rail accidents in recent years. It also does not address an estimated 78,000 flawed tank cars that carry crude and ethanol and

are known to split open during derailments.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said it would address the tank car issue separately.

By taking voluntary steps, the railroads will be able to act more quickly than if they waited for new safety rules to be drafted and approved by the government, said Robert Chipkevich, a former director of rail accident investigations at the National Transportation Safety Board.

But regulators will have little leverage to enforce the industry's commitments, he added.

"It's a positive step," Chipkevich said. "But certainly there's nothing to say they would have to continue following those practices. The only way you can enforce something like that would be for regulators to publish regulations and do periodic oversight."

Federal officials said they would continue to pursue longer-term safety measures and use regular inspections to check for compliance with the industry agreement. With no formal rules in place inspectors could not issue fines or take other punitive measures.

Mixed signals over in-flight use of cellphones

WASHINGTON (AP)—When it comes to deciding whether airline passengers can use their cellphones in flight, federal agencies are sending different signals to consumers.

The Transportation Department, which regulates aviation consumer issues, indicated in a notice posted online Friday that it is considering retaining the 23-year-old ban on the calls, and asked for public comment.

Two months ago, the Federal Communications Commission voted to pursue allowing the calls. The FCC has responsibility for determining whether the use of cellphones in flight would interfere with cellular networks on the ground.

Polls show that many passengers, particularly frequent fliers, oppose allowing in-flight calls from passengers' cellphones. Echoing their concerns, the Transportation Department said it believes allowing passengers to make cellphone calls "may be harmful or injurious" to others.

"People tend to talk louder on cellphones than when

they're having face-to-face conversations," the department said. "They are also likely to talk more and further increase the noise on a flight, as passengers would not be simply talking to the persons sitting next to them but can call whomever they like."

Some planes already have seat-back phones, but they are rarely used, the department said, adding that the concern "is not about individual calls, but rather the cumulative impact of allowing in-flight calls in close quarters."

At the FCC, Chairman Tom Wheeler has said he wants to repeal the ban on cellphone use in flight, calling it restrictive and outdated. He also wants the airlines, not the government, to have final say on in-flight calling. He declined to comment Friday on the Transportation Department's notice.

In an Associated Press-GfK poll three months ago, 48 percent of those surveyed opposed letting cellphones be used for voice calls while planes are in flight, while 19 percent were in

favor and 30 percent were neutral. Among those who'd flown four or more times in the previous year, the rate of opposition soared to 78 percent.

Delta Air Lines told the government last year that 64 percent of its passengers indicated that the ability to make phone calls in flight would have a negative impact on their onboard experience.

The FCC has already received more than 1,200 public comments on its proposal, almost all of them opposed to lifting the ban.

"Nobody, absolutely nobody, wants to be the involuntary audience of another passenger's telephone conversation," one commenter said Friday. "It is the equivalent of torture to be forced to listen to the incessant prattling of a seatmate, compounded by the impossibility of escape."

Among the most ardent opponents of lifting the ban are flight attendants, who worry that phone conversation will spark arguments between passengers and even acts of violence.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple, Samsung fail to settle before March trial

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. have failed to settle their latest patent dispute despite a daylong meeting between top Samsung executives and Apple CEO Tim Cook hosted by a mediator earlier this month. The companies detailed the lack of progress in a court filing Friday. Judge Lucy Koh of the U.S. District Court in San Jose has been pushing the two sides to settle the 2-year-old case. A court filing the companies made Friday in the 2-year-old case before Judge Lucy Koh in the U.S. District Court in San Jose detailed the lack of progress.

Detroit automakers worry about UAW money struggles

DETROIT (AP)—The United Auto Workers' membership and dues are down sharply from just six years ago. In another sign of weakness, the union suffered a stunning defeat this month when it tried to organize a Tennessee factory run by labor-friendly Volkswagen. The rejection, by a close vote, was a major setback in the union's

effort to expand in the South, where non-union, foreign companies such as VW, Nissan and Hyundai are rapidly growing. But instead of relief, Detroit's three automakers—Ford, Chrysler and General Motors—are increasingly anxious about the 78-year old union's future.

California farmers won't get federal water

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Without a lot more rain and snow, many California farmers caught in the state's drought can expect to receive no irrigation water this year from a vast system of rivers, canals and reservoirs interlacing the state, federal officials announced Friday. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released its first outlook of the year, saying that the agency will continue to monitor rain and snow fall, but the grim levels so far prove that the state is in the throes of one of its driest periods in recorded history. Farmers who rely on the federally run Central Valley Project received only 20 percent of their normal water allotment last year and were expecting this year's bad news. Some communities and endangered wildlife that rely on the federal water source will also suffer deep cuts.

Nation

Baby in roadside rescue in stable condition

By **SUE COCKING**
THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—A day after a photographer's lens happen to catch a frantic roadside effort by motorists to save an unconscious infant, the baby's aunt and doctor announced Friday that he was stable.

While still in a critical care unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital, 5-month-old Sebastian de la Cruz managed to share a smile with nurses and doctors.

But on Thursday, little Sebastian, who was born prematurely, was fighting a respiratory infection and crying as his aunt was headed west on the Dolphin Expressway. When he abruptly stopped crying, Pamela Rauseo, 37, of Miami, knew something was wrong.

She stopped her SUV on the

expressway just east of 57th Avenue and immediately jumped out screaming that her nephew had stopped breathing.

The baby was turning blue. Traffic soon backed up.

The dramatic scene unfolded before Miami Herald photographer Al Diaz, who also was stuck in traffic. Diaz ran through stalled traffic, shouting to get help. He quickly got the attention of Sweetwater police officer Amauris Bastidas, who rushed to help perform CPR.

Then Diaz grabbed his camera, snapping off a series of pictures, capturing the heroic efforts of Bastidas and others to save little Sebastian.

On Friday morning, news outlets throughout the U.S. and from as far away as Australia, Germany and Brazil covered the story after Diaz's moving

photos of Rauseo and other motorists performing CPR on Sebastian hit the Internet.

Dr. Juan Solano said Friday that the baby is in stable condition in Jackson's Holtz Pediatric Critical Care unit and is "under very close observation" with no timetable for when he might go home.

"We do think he had been having respiratory issues, which were made worse by a respiratory infection he had recently," he said.

Solano and Dr. Judy Schaechter, interim chief of pediatrics at University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, said they want to use the intense media focus on the incident to encourage everyone to become certified in CPR.

"Cases like Sebastian's happen every day," Solano said. "It is fortunate it happened with a

good result, so you can spread the message that CPR training is important and Sebastian was saved by CPR."

The course can be taken in 30 minutes online, followed by another 15-30-minute in-person

session with the Red Cross or American Heart Association, Solano said.

On Friday, Rauseo remembered the desperate efforts to save her nephew when she stopped her SUV in traffic.

"He was already unconscious," Rauseo told reporters Friday at a hastily called press conference at Jackson Memorial Hospital where Sebastian was being treated. "I couldn't fail. I had to get this baby well."



Pamela Rauseo, 37, performs CPR on her nephew, five-month-old Sebastian de la Cruz, after pulling her SUV over on the side of the road along the west bound lane on Florida state road 836 just east of 57th Avenue around 2:30pm on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014. At right is Lucila Godoy who stopped her car to assist in the rescue. The baby was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he is reportedly doing ok.

Last dry town in Conn. reconsiders Prohibition

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The last dry town in Connecticut is considering whether to give up on Prohibition.

Bridgewater, an affluent bedroom community of 1,700 people tucked into the hills of western Connecticut, may have more at stake in a referendum than bragging rights: The town's average age has risen above 50 and the state is threatening to close the only school.

First Selectman Curtis Read says restaurants that serve alcohol could provide a much-needed boost.

"It would tend to enliven the town," Read said.

Repeal has become the hottest issue in Bridgewater, with dozens attending a November town meeting on the issue. Read said it was clear people were reluctant to "show their cards" and a referendum was chosen in part for privacy, so that voters do not have to reveal opinions to neighbors. The timing of the vote, originally scheduled for Tuesday, now remains to be determined after it was postponed to make

sure it complies with decades-old blue laws.

Cynthia Bennett, whose grandmother led an effort to keep Bridgewater dry after Prohibition ended in 1933, said she believes many fellow longtime residents will join her in voting against alcohol sales.

"I feel people moved here because Bridgewater is the way it is and I'd like to keep it that way," said Bennett, 55. "I'm not saying you don't, say, have a game of horseshoes and have a beer. There's plenty of it in Bridgewater."

Bridgewater has taken up the issue for the first time since 1930s because two developers proposed opening restaurants, as long as they could serve alcohol. Some residents have bars in their garages but the town, which is home to actress Mia Farrow and a large weekend population of people from New York City, currently does not have a restaurant aside from a village store with a delicatessen.

Read won the top job in November after his predecessor,

William Stuart, declined to run for re-election to a position he held for 30 years. A leader of a local fox-hunting club, Stuart championed land preservation and kept development at bay. The FBI raided the town hall in 2012, and Stuart said he assumed was the target, but the FBI has since declined to comment on the status of any investigation.

Today, the town 60 miles north of New York has a median household income of about \$100,000, but it has a glut of homes on the market and the last census showed the median age is 51. Farms dot the town that is full of picturesque, winding rural roads but has little downtown beyond the town hall and a post office.

A plan for a consolidated regional elementary school, subject to a vote in April, could lead to the closing of the town's only grade school.

"The town definitely needs a boost," said Read, who said the restaurants could provide a bit of local employment and a place to socialize.

ACROSS THE NATION

Carbon monoxide detected at NY mall, 1 dead

HUNTINGTON STATION, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a 55-year-old restaurant manager has died and more than two dozen others were taken to hospitals after being overcome by carbon monoxide at a restaurant at a New York mall. A Suffolk County police spokesman identified the man who died Saturday as Steven Nelson, a restaurant manager at the Legal Sea Foods restaurant at the Walt Whitman Shops in Huntington Station on Long Island. The res-

taurant is located in a detached building that is part of the mall. Police said 27 others affected by carbon monoxide were taken to area hospitals. They said four ambulance personnel and three officers were among those overcome by carbon monoxide at the complex, which is about 35 miles east of New York City.

4 dead, 2 critical after Indianapolis house fire

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A fire swept through a small home in Indianapolis on Saturday morning, killing a couple and two of their children and

leaving two surviving siblings in "very critical" condition, a fire official said. The home is adjacent to a busy Interstate 70 overpass, and a motorist on that highway reported the fire about 9:10 a.m., Capt. Rita Reith said. Subsequent 911 calls led crews to the home's exact location in an east side neighborhood. Firefighters found the parents and their four children—ages 14, 11, 8 and 6—unconscious inside the small bungalow-style home and brought them outside, starting efforts to resuscitate them on the lawn, Reith said.

Child porn found at coach's home in girl's killing

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—A police search of the southwest Missouri home of a middle-school football coach accused in a 10-year-old girl's kidnapping and death found child pornography and more than a dozen guns, according to search warrants released Friday.

Officers retrieved a three-ring binder containing pornographic photos of young children at the home of Craig Michael Wood, the documents released by Springfield police say. Investigators also seized computers, cameras, 30 video recordings, handwritten journals, a spent .22 caliber shell casing and a hat believed to have been worn by fourth-grader Hailey Owens.

Wood is accused of snatching Hailey as she walked home from her best friend's house this week, just two blocks from her own home. Neighbors said they watched in horror and unsuccessfully gave chase as Hailey was pulled into a pickup truck

that sped away.

At a brief hearing Friday, Wood's lawyer said he plans to plead not guilty. Wood appeared via video from the Greene County Jail, where he is being held without bond. He spoke only briefly to answer several questions from the judge. Hailey's parents, older brother and five other family members also attended.

Court records released earlier as well as the search warrants indicate her body was found in Wood's basement, stuffed into trash bags and plastic containers. Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson said Hailey was shot in the back of the head and had ligature marks on her wrists, suggesting she was tied up. A preliminary autopsy is complete but won't be released publicly because the criminal case remains open, according to the county medical examiner's office.

Patterson said he is con-

sidering whether to seek the death penalty.

At the arraignment, public defender Chris Hatley said Wood plans to contest the charges of first-degree murder, kidnapping and armed criminal action.

Assistant prosecutor Todd Myers challenged Wood's use of a public defender after he said police found evidence of a \$1 million trust in Wood's name. The source of that income is not clear: Both Wood's father and an attorney representing the suspect's parents did not return telephone calls seeking comment on Friday.

"I think he can afford his own attorney," Myers said.

Hatley replied that he appreciated the prosecutor's concern for Wood's rights but that "it's frankly none of his business."

Circuit Judge Dan Imhof said he would consider the matter. He scheduled a follow-up court appearance in March and a preliminary hearing in April.

Asia

Girl killed, dozens hurt in attack on Thai protest

BANGKOK (AP)—Gunmen in a pickup truck attacked an anti-government protest in Thailand's east, killing at least one person, a child, and wounding dozens, as violence in the country's 3-month-old political crisis spread outside the capital, Bangkok, officials said Sunday.

The attack took place Saturday night in Trat province, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) east of Bangkok, where about 500 protesters demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra were holding a rally near food stalls where people were dining.

Thai media reported that as many as three people were killed and several others are in critical condition, but National Security Council chief Lt. Gen. Paradorn Pattanathubutr said there had been one fatality - an 8-year-old girl. A nurse at Trat Hospital, Nantiya Thientawatchai, told The Associated Press that the girl who died was 5 years old. The reason for the discrepancy was not clear.

The attack was the latest in

a string of protest-related violence roiling Thailand over the past three months, in which at least 16 people have been killed and hundreds hurt. The protesters want Yingluck to quit to make way for an appointed interim government to implement anti-corruption reforms, but she has refused.

Police Lt. Thanabhum Newanit said unidentified assailants in a pickup shot into the crowd and two explosive devices went off. It was not clear if the protest group, which uses armed guards, fought back. He and other officials said that about three dozen people were hurt.

Both supporters and opponents of the protest group called the People's Democratic Reform Committee, as well as police, have been victims of the political violence, which before Saturday was mostly confined to the Thai capital. On Friday night, six people were hurt when unknown attackers threw a grenade into a protest crowd in Bangkok.

Both sides in the ongoing po-

litical dispute have blamed the other for instigating violence.

"At this point we do not know who was behind the attack, but there are several factors to take into account in the investigation," Paradorn said.

He added that the protesters in Trat have been rallying for a long time, "so they might have caused disturbance to others. And that area is controlled by groups that are affiliated with the anti-government side," he said.

"The prime minister has expressed concern and urged the national police chief to speed up the investigation," Paradorn said.

Thailand has been riven by sometimes violent political conflict since 2006, when then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck's brother, was ousted by a military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power. Thaksin's supporters and opponents have since then taken to the streets for extended periods in a power struggle.

Koreans part, likely for last time, from relatives

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As his North Korean daughter wept Saturday, 93-year-old South Korean Park Un-hyeong tried to console her before boarding a bus to take him south across the world's most heavily armed border after spending three days with her in the North. For Park and dozens of other Koreans at these rare reunions of families divided by the Korean War, it was likely the last time they'd see each other.

"You shouldn't cry on this good day," he told his daughter, Pak Myung Ok, 68, as he prepared to leave the North Korean resort that hosted the first reunions of North and South Koreans in more than three years, according to South Korean media pool reports. "We'll be able to meet again soon. Trust your father, stay healthy and live well."

In another emotional scene, an 84-year-old South Korean woman, Lee Oh-hwan, became short of breath from crying too hard and was immediately treated by a medical team. Her North Korean sister, 72-year-old Ri Ok Bin, tried to calm her down, telling her in an aching voice not to get sick.

Again and again, similar scenes played out as 80 elderly South Koreans said their good-byes to North Korean relatives. They wept, held hands, caressed faces, took pictures and tried to convince themselves that they'd meet again.

Both democratic South Korea and authoritarian North Korea share the same type of rhetoric about eventual reunification, and many average Koreans say they long for that day. But after

near continual animosity and occasional bloodshed since the three-year war ended in an uneasy armistice in 1953, many analysts see that as only a distant possibility.

The reunions will continue when a group of about 360 South Koreans arrives Sunday to meet with North Korean relatives whom most haven't seen in six decades. The second and final round of reunions is set to end Tuesday.

It's an unusual moment of detente between the rivals. Millions of Koreans were separated from loved ones by the tumult and bloodshed of the war, and few have been reunited. Both governments ban their citizens from visiting each other or even exchanging letters,

phone calls and emails. During a previous period of inter-Korean rapprochement, about 22,000 Koreans had brief reunions—18,000 in person and the others by video. None got a second chance to reunite, Seoul says.

The current reunions were arranged after impoverished North Korea began calling recently for better ties with South Korea, in what outside analysts say is an attempt to win badly needed foreign investment and aid. But Pyongyang threatened to scrap the reunions to protest annual military drills between Seoul and Washington set to start Monday. North Korea had canceled previously scheduled reunions in September at the last minute.

have produced independent films.

6 children drown while skating on river in China

BEIJING (AP)—Six children have drowned while skating on a river in a rural area of northern China, a local government said Sunday. The children aged 5 to 11 were skating together Saturday afternoon near a village in Pingyao county in Shanxi province, the county government said on its official microblog. After residents alerted police that children had fallen in, rescuers were sent to the scene. About an hour later, they pulled out four bodies. It took divers another 1 1/2 hour to find the bodies of the remaining two children.

World

Ukraine president's whereabouts unclear

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—The whereabouts of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich were unclear on Sunday, a day after he left the capital and his arch foe Yulia Tymoshenko was freed from prison and returned to Kiev to address a massive, adoring crowd.

Ukrainian news agencies, citing the deputy head of the State Border Service, reported that a chartered airplane with Yanukovich onboard was denied permission to take off from Donetsk, a city in eastern Ukraine that is the president's base of support.

The center of Kiev, meanwhile, was calm as the sun came up Sunday after a day that saw a stunning reversal of fortune in Ukraine's political crisis.

Protesters on Saturday took control of the presidential administration building, and thousands of curious and contemptuous Ukrainians roamed the suddenly open grounds of the lavish compound outside Kiev where Yanukovich was believed to live.

Parliament, which he controlled the previous day but is now emboldened against him, called for his removal and for elections on May 25. But Yanukovich said he now regards the parliament as illegitimate and he won't respect its decisions.

The political crisis in the nation of 46 million, strategically important for Europe, Russia and the United States, has changed with blinding speed repeatedly in the past week. First there were signs that tensions were easing, followed by horrifying violence and then a deal signed under Western pressure that aimed to resolve the conflict but left the unity of the country in question.

Tymoshenko, whose diadem of blond peasant braids and stirring rhetoric attracted world attention in the 2004 Orange Revolution, was both sad and excited as she spoke to a crowd of about 50,000 on Kiev's Independence Square, where a sprawling protest tent camp was set up in December. Sitting in a wheelchair because of a back problem aggravated during imprisonment, her voice cracked and her face was careworn.

But her words were vivid, praising the protesters who were killed this week in clashes with police that included sniper fire and entreating the living to keep the camp going.

"You are heroes, you are the best thing in Ukraine!" she said of the victims. The Health Ministry on Saturday said the death toll in clashes between protesters and police that included sniper attacks had reached 82.

And she urged the demonstrators not to yield their encampment in the square, known in Ukrainian as the Maidan.

"In no case do you have the right to leave the Maidan until you have concluded everything that you planned to do," she said. The crowd was thrilled.

"We missed Yulia and her fire so much," said demonstrator Yuliya Sulchanik. Minutes after her release, Tymoshenko said she plans to run for president, and Sulchanik said "Yulia will be the next president—she deserves it."

Under the agreement signed Friday, Yanukovich faces early elections, but it is unclear when they will happen.

His authority in Kiev appeared to be eroding by the hour.

Yanukovich spoke on television in Kharkiv, the heartland of his base of support and ironically the same city where Tymoshenko was imprisoned. He truculently likened his opponents to the rise of Nazism in the 1930s and accused them of a putsch.

"Everything that is happening today is, to a greater degree, vandalism and banditry and a coup d'etat," he said. "I will do everything to protect my country from breakup, to stop bloodshed."

Ukraine is deeply divided between eastern regions that are largely pro-Russian and western areas that widely detest Yanukovich and long for closer ties with the European Union. Yanukovich's shelving of an agreement with the EU in November set off the wave of protests, but they quickly expanded their grievances to corruption,

human rights abuses and calls for Yanukovich's resignation.

The conviction of Tymoshenko was one of the underlying issues driving the protests.

After the 2004 Orange Revolution helped bring Viktor Yushchenko to the presidency, Tymoshenko became prime minister. But when Yanukovich won the 2010 election, Tymoshenko was arrested and put on trial for abuse of office, an action widely seen as political revenge.

On Saturday, before Tymoshenko's arrival, other opposition figures hailed Yanukovich's deteriorating hold on the country.

"The people have won, because we fought for our future," said opposition leader Vitali Klitschko to a euphoric crowd of thousands on Independence Square. Beneath a cold, heavy rain, protesters who have stood for weeks and months to pressure the president to leave congratulated each other and shouted "Glory to Ukraine!"

"It is only the beginning of the battle," Klitschko said, urging calm and telling protesters not to take justice into their own hands.

Top EU foreign envoy Catherine Ashton welcomed the release of Tymoshenko as "an important step forward in view of addressing concerns regarding selective justice in the country."

The president's support base crumbled further as a leading governor and a mayor from the eastern city of Kharkiv fled to Russia.

Political chaos in Ukraine

A crisis in Ukraine has followed three months of angry street protests and violent crackdowns. Now, the parliament has voted to remove President Viktor Yanukovich and set an election for May 25. An update of the situation:



After crackdown, opposition takes control

Nov. 29, 2013 Yanukovich rejects trade deal with European Union, embraces relationship with Russia, sparking street protests in Kiev

Jan. 28, 2014 Prime Minister Mykola Azarov resigns; parliament annuls the anti-protest law

Feb. 18 Security forces clash with protesters in Kiev, at least 25 people killed

Feb. 19 Truce declared, then shattered; EU imposes sanctions; more deaths reported

Feb. 21 Two sides sign deal allowing for early presidential elections, revised constitution

Feb. 22 Parliament votes to oust Yanukovich, who flees to Kharkiv; reports say he tried to enter Russia but was turned back; decries actions in Kiev as a coup; refuses to resign

Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters, MCT Photo Service © 2014 MCT



Viktor Yanukovich
President has close ties to Russia



Yulia Tymoshenko
Rival, released from prison, addresses crowd in Kiev

Health & Fitness

Medicare Advantage plans may face cuts

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Cuts are on the table next year for Medicare Advantage plans, the Obama administration says. The politically dicey move affecting a private insurance al-

ternative highly popular with seniors immediately touched off an election-year fight.

The announcement gave new ammunition to Republican critics of President Barack Obama's health care law, while disappointing some Democratic senators who had called on the

administration to hold rates steady. Insurers are still hoping to whittle back the cuts or dodge them altogether.

Late Friday after financial markets closed, Medicare issued a 148-page assessment of cost factors for the private plans next year. It included multiple

variables, some moving in different directions, but analyst Matthew Eyles of Avalere Health estimated it would translate to a cut of 1.9 percent for 2015, a figure also cited by congressional staffers briefed on the proposal.

"There's nothing to like here if you're one of the plans," said Eyles.

Administration officials say the plans don't need to be paid as much to turn a profit, because the growth of health care spending has slowed dramatically. They see the cuts as a dividend for taxpayers.

But the political clout of the plans is growing as seniors flock to them seeking better health care value. Medicare Advantage

plans now serve nearly 16 million people, or about 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries. They can offer lower out-of-pocket costs and broader benefits than traditional Medicare, but often restrict choice.

Insurers say they will be forced to pass on higher costs to seniors or cut benefits if their rates are reduced, and some plans may drop out altogether. The impact could vary significantly around the country.

The industry says the cuts come as Medicare Advantage reductions programmed under the health care law are ramping up. The law sought to compensate for prior years in which the plans were overpaid. But it also includes a new tax on

insurers, so industry officials fear the combined impact will be much higher.

The largest insurer trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, is sparing no effort to head off cuts, with an extensive advertising and lobbying campaign.

It has won the support of 40 senators from both parties who, in a Feb. 14 letter, called on the administration to essentially hold Medicare Advantage rates steady. Among the signers were six Democratic senators in contested races whose outcome will determine whether Obama faces a Congress next year that's completely controlled by Republicans.

Flu season waning; younger adults hit hardest



This Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 file photo shows vials of flu vaccine in Philadelphia. AP

ATLANTA (AP)—Flu season seems to be winding down, and it's been an odd one.

It hasn't been as bad as last year and the vaccine worked a little better. And it has been a fairly mild one for the elderly—traditionally the most vulner-

able group.

But it's been a different story for young and middle-age adults, who have been hit harder than expected because of a surge in swine flu.

Most flu seasons, only one-third of the people who land

in the hospital with the flu are adults ages 18-64. This winter, they have accounted for two-thirds, most of them adults who were obese or had another ailment.

The numbers "are painful reminders that flu can be serious for anyone, not just infants and the very old," said Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC released new information Thursday about the flu season, which started around mid-December, a bit earlier than usual, and apparently peaked by mid-January. Last winter, it started even earlier.

For weeks, flu has been waning in some parts of the country, although health officials say there's still a lot of flu virus going around and flu season is capable of getting a second wind.

Personal Trainer

Coming back from ankle sprain

Returning to exercise before a sprained ankle has healed completely can set you up for another, possibly more serious, ankle injury.

Essential steps in recovery

- 1** Have worn prescribed tape, brace or wrap while resting ankle

Can stand on ankle without pain

Swelling has gone down



- 2** Can judge when to use brace or tape during exercise

Can draw letters of alphabet with toes

Calf, ankle muscles back to normal strength

Low-impact aerobic, weight lifting do not cause pain or swelling



- 3** Balance is same standing on injured and uninjured leg

Increased aerobics, weight lifting do not cause pain or swelling

Have regained previous general strength



- 4**

Can run and do sport-specific movements without pain or limitation

Trainer or exercise partners are supportive of your gradual return to play



Source: The Physician and Sportsmedicine

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

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In Humble Gratitude

†Jose Cabrera Tudela

We, the family of the late **†Jose Cabrera Tudela** would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our friends and relatives, from near and far, who have unselfishly come to be with us in so many ways expressing words of wisdom, comforted us and embraces us with love as we mourn the untimely passing of our dearly beloved father and grandfather.

Your thoughts and prayers, love and support have helped ease the pain in the loss of our beloved. Our deepest appreciation to the very Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Fr. Isaac Ayuyu for presiding over the Mass Christian Burial, altar servers of Santa Soledad and Mount Carmel Cathedral, Tan ko Palacios and Our Techa Lou Saures for their assistance. Thank you to the St. Jude Choir for their beautiful music.

The Doctors, nurses and The staff of CHCC for their care and assistance. We appreciate the untiring services of Ms. Daisy Dela Cruz and Ms. Adelina Mandia for their care and compassion.

To all of you, who were with us during the nightly rosaries and masses, thank you very much from our hearts and we will always remember you in our prayers.

May God Bless Us All
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You

Family of the late
†Jose Cabrera Tudela and †Margarita Sablan Cabrera Tudela

Life & Style

'12 Years a Slave' wins big at NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"12 Years a Slave" swept the film categories at the NAACP Image Awards with four wins.

The historical epic's prizes at Saturday's 45th annual cer-

emony honoring diversity in the arts included outstanding motion picture, directing for Steve McQueen, writing for John Ridley and supporting actress for Lupita Nyong'o.

"It's been a historical year in film for all of us in this room, and I'm so proud to be a part of that history," Nyong'o said. "It's such an honor to be recognized for a

film that has meant so much to so many people, a film that has inspired discourse long overdue."

Kevin Hart won as entertainer of the year and actor

in a comedy series for "Real Husbands of Hollywood," his BET reality TV lampoon that was also selected as outstanding comedy series.

Kerry Washington picked up her fifth Image Award: outstanding actress in a drama series for her role as crisis management consultant Olivia Pope on ABC's "Scandal," which was also honored as outstanding drama series.

Other winners at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium ceremony hosted by actor Anthony Anderson included "Steve Harvey" as talk show and David Oyelowo as supporting actor in a motion picture for "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

"Thank you America for embracing me," the British actor said. "I'm one of those guys with the funny accent."

Forest Whitaker won the actor in a motion picture prize for "The Butler." Whitaker, who founded the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative, was also honored with the NAACP Chairman's Award, which recognizes distinguished public service. Whitaker serves as the chairman of the International Institute for Peace and is a member of the President's Committee

on the Arts and Humanities.

"All I've tried to do with my life and work is to deeper my connection with humanity, so I've lived by the words of an old Nat King Cole song my daddy used to play on his stereo, which is, 'The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return,'" said Whitaker.

Oprah Winfrey and Stevie Wonder paid tribute to Nelson Mandela, the late South African leader who died last year.

"We can each reflect, I do believe, the greatness he inspired in all of us," said Winfrey. "I have to say sitting at his funeral and watching that casket go into the ground, I miss him dearly. I want you all to know that his life was an example to us all."

Several winners were previously announced, including music honorees John Legend as male artist, Beyonce as female artist and Robin Thicke, T.I. and Pharrell as group or collaboration for their hit tune "Blurred Lines."

The awards are presented annually by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the civil rights group's members select the winners.

Australian TV star Charlotte Dawson found dead

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian TV star and former model Charlotte Dawson, who became an anti-bullying activist after she was targeted online, has been found dead at age 47.

Famed for TV shows such as "Australia's Next Top Model," the New Zealand-born star had a history of depression. She was found dead in her Sydney apartment on Saturday morning. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances, which is how they usually describe suicide.

Sydney's *The Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported that she was found hanged.

In 2012, she was admitted to a Sydney hospital after a suicide attempt following an ongoing tirade of abuse on Twitter. She had taken prescription tablets with wine and tweeted: "you win" in a suicide note to her cyber tormentors.

She later made fighting bullying her personal mission, waging an anti-bullying media campaign on television and radio and in newspapers and magazines as well as her beloved Twitter.

Her efforts and high public profile on the issue were recognized by the National Rugby League, a major Australian football association, which last year made her an anti-bullying ambassador.

The NRL's One-Community campaign is an extension of its zero-tolerance policy toward racial abuse in football.



AP
In this April 26, 2008 photo, Charlotte Dawson arrives on the red carpet for the MTV Australia awards in Sydney.

Dawson revealed in her 2012 autobiography "Air Kiss & Tell" that she was frequently visited by the "depression bogeyman."

She had long graced the pages of women's gossip magazines and scenes in reality TV shows. Her modeling career had taken her to Italy, Britain and Germany during the 1980s.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key tweeted he was "shocked and saddened" by the news of her death.

The Sun-Herald newspaper in Sydney reported Sunday that her body was found only minutes before her luxury waterside apartment was due to be sold at auction.

The tragedy was discovered

Maria von Trapp, 99, dies in Vermont

STOWE, Vermont (AP)—Maria von Trapp, the last surviving member and second-eldest daughter of the musical family whose escape from Nazi-occupied Austria was the basis for "The Sound of Music," has died. She was 99.

Von Trapp died at her home in Vermont on Tuesday, according to her brother Johannes von Trapp.

"She was a lovely woman who was one of the few truly good people," he said. "There wasn't a mean or miserable bone in her body. I think everyone who knew her would agree with that."

Maria von Trapp was the last surviving member of the seven original Trapp Family Singers made famous in "The Sound of Music." Their story was turned into a Broadway musical in 1959 and a 1965 film, which

won the Oscar for best picture. Trapp was portrayed as Louisa in the film and musical.

She was the third child and second-eldest daughter of Austrian Naval Capt. Georg von Trapp and his first wife, Agathe Whitehead von Trapp. Their seven children were the basis for the singing family in the musical and film.

"The Sound of Music" was based loosely on a 1949 book by von Trapp's second wife, also Maria von Trapp, who died in 1987. It tells the story of an Austrian woman who married a widower with seven children and teaches them music.

In 1938, the family escaped from Nazi-occupied Austria and performed concert tours throughout Europe and then a three-month tour in America. The family eventually settled in Vermont and opened a ski

lodge in Stowe.

Von Trapp played accordion and taught Austrian dance with sister Rosmarie at the lodge.

She wrote in a biography posted on the Trapp Family's website that she was born in the Austrian Alps after her family fled fighting from World War I and that she was surrounded by music growing up.

"Father played the violin, accordion and mandolin. Mother played piano and violin," she wrote. "I have fond memories of our grandmother playing the piano for us after meals."

Her biography on the website also said that she worked as a lay missionary in Papua, New Guinea.

Rosmarie von Trapp, Johannes von Trapp and Eleonore Von Trapp Campbell were born to Georg von Trapp and Maria von Trapp.

High-wire walker sets sights on Georgia gorge

ATLANTA (AP)—Daredevil tightrope walker Nik Wallenda is setting his sights on a new goal: the nearly 1,000-foot (305-meter) deep Tallulah Gorge in the northeast Georgia mountains.

The Georgia gorge holds special meaning for Wallenda, since his great-grandfather Karl Wallenda crossed it on a high wire on July 18, 1970.

"To be able to walk literally in his footsteps is what my life's about," said Nik Wallenda, who discussed the idea in an interview hours after he crossed a 100-foot(30 1/2-meter)-high tightrope inside the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Feb. 8.

Karl Wallenda later plunged to his death while trying to walk a cable between two buildings in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1978.

Nik Wallenda says he's already visited the gorge near the Georgia town of Tallulah Falls, and he's considering attempting the feat within the next three years.

"Hopefully we can make it happen," Wallenda told the AP.

The Georgia gorge walk would add to accomplishments that include his televised crossing of Niagara Falls in June 2012 that gained international attention. Last year, he crossed the Little Colorado River Gorge in the Grand Canyon area of Arizona.

In northeast Georgia, local



AP
In this Sunday, June 23, 2013 file photo, daredevil Nik Wallenda speaks during a news conference after crossing a tightrope 1,500 feet above the Little Colorado River Gorge, on the Navajo reservation outside the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park.

leaders say a high-wire walk across the Tallulah Gorge has the potential of drawing thousands of tourists to the area and increasing its visibility globally.

"It would put the Tallulah Gorge and Tallulah Gorge State Park back on the map," said Teka Earnhardt, the administrator at the Rabun County Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It would be huge for us."

Karl Wallenda's walk across the gorge drew an estimated 30,000 spectators to the north Georgia mountains. Hikers can still see remnants of the 1970

stunt, such as a large metal platform used to support the cable that was used.

The area, particularly the Chattooga River, is still known as the site of filming for the 1972 film "Deliverance." The nearby Tallulah Falls Opry, a weekly gathering of bluegrass musicians in the nearby town, also draws some tourists to the area.

"We're very interested in working with Nik Wallenda," Earnhardt said. "It is something that we are already trying to work on."

265 Anne Frank books vandalized in Tokyo libraries

TOKYO (AP)—Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" and scores of books about the young Holocaust victim have been vandalized in Tokyo public libraries since earlier this year.

The damage was mostly in the form of dozens of ripped pages in the books. Librarians have counted at least 265 damaged books at 31 municipal libraries since the end of January.

Japan and Nazi Germany were allies in World War II, and though Holocaust denial has occurred in Japan at times, the motive for damaging the Anne Frank books is unclear. Police are investigating.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga called the vandalism "shameful" and said Japan would not tolerate such acts.

The New York-based Anti-Defamation League, a civil rights group fighting anti-Semitism, praised Suga's remarks.

The league's national director, Abraham Foxman, called for a full investigation and asked Japan's government "to carefully consider if this act of disrespect for the memory of the millions of Jewish victims who



Ripped copies of Anne Frank's "Diary of a Young Girl" and related books are shown at Shinjuku City Library in Tokyo Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. AP

lost their lives in the Holocaust requires a new look at educational initiatives regarding the Holocaust and anti-Semitism."

He said that while there has been some history of "journalistic and literary anti-Semitism in Japan, these kinds of incidents are in fact quite rare."

In the Nakano district libraries, the vandals apparently damaged the books while unnoticed inside reading rooms, according to city official Mitsujiro Ikeda.

"Books related to Ms. Anne Frank are clearly targeted, and it's happening across Tokyo," he said Friday. "It's outrageous."

At another library, all the books that were damaged could have been found using the keywords "Anne Frank" in an online database.

At least one library has moved Anne Frank-related books behind the counter for protection, though they can still be checked out.

Anne Frank wrote her diary over the two years she and her family hid in a concealed apartment in Nazi-occupied Netherlands during World War II. After her family was betrayed and deported, she died in a German concentration camp at age 15 in 1945.

Her father survived and published her diary, which has become the most widely read document to emerge from the Holocaust.

Hot hat: Pharrell auctioning famous Grammys cap

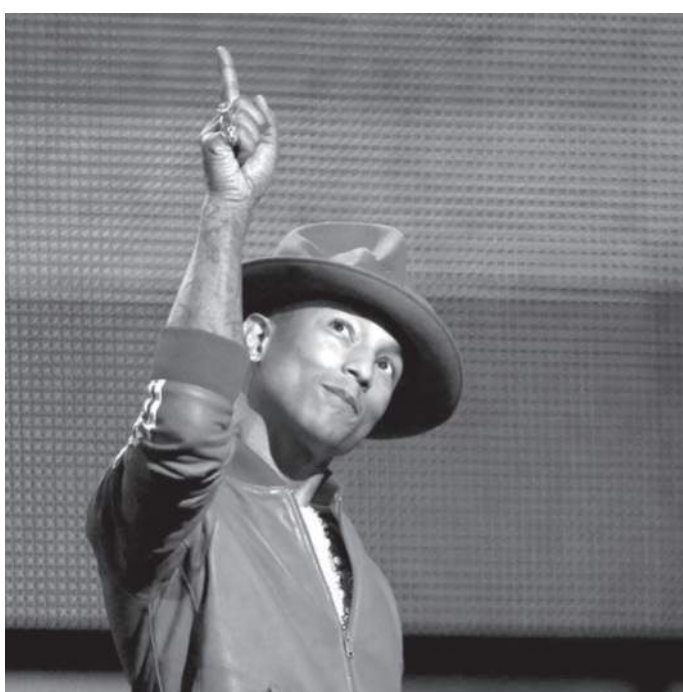
NEW YORK (AP)—Pharrell's days as a mad hatter may be coming to an end.

The famous and buzzed about Vivienne Westwood hat that the producer, rapper and singer wore at the Grammy Awards is being auctioned on eBay to support his charity.

Bids had reached more than \$10,000 by Friday afternoon for the brown fedora, which became a trending topic on Twitter after Pharrell wore it.

Proceeds will support Pharrell's From One Hand to Another charity. It provides arts and educational resources for children.

He will perform his hit "Happy" at the Academy Awards on March 1. It's nominated for best original song and is currently No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. He'll release the album "G I R L" on March 3.



Presenter Pharrell Williams gestures on stage at the 56th annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles. AP

Pink joins lineup of pop artists on the Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Have the Oscars gone Grammys?

Producers of the 86th Academy Awards announced Friday that Pink will appear on the Oscar show. The Grammy-winning singer joins a lineup

already set to include performances by U2, Pharrell Williams, Bette Midler, rocker Karen O and Broadway star Idina Menzel.

Producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan didn't specify what

Pink's performance will entail. They also haven't said what song Midler will sing.

Williams, Menzel, Karen O and U2 are set to perform their nominated original songs on the March 2 show.

Lawsuit charges Sony cheated 'Idol' winners

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal lawsuit filed in New York charges that Sony Music Entertainment cheated "American Idol" contestants including Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood out of at least \$10 million in royalties.

The lawsuit was filed Thurs-

day by 19 Recordings, a music company founded by "Idol" creator Simon Fuller.

The lawsuit says 19 discovered the royalty issue from two separate audits of Sony's records.

Other artists named in the suit include Clay Aiken, Chris

Daughtry and Jordin Sparks.

Attorney Richard Busch, of the Nashville firm King & Ballou, says the legal action was necessary to protect the rights of 19's artists.

A Sony spokeswoman said she had no comment on the lawsuit.

Parents' irresponsibility could put son at mercy of the state

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When my son was 17, he met an "older girl" who was 21 and began an on-again, off-again relationship with her. Fast-forward two years: He now has a felony and several misdemeanors for fighting with her, and they have a wonderful little baby boy whom neither can take care of. I have been supporting the child.

The young woman is schizophrenic and bipolar and will not stay on her meds. I feel torn because I don't want to be raising children at 49, but my son refuses to take care of the baby because he "isn't ready to be a father."

I can't leave my grandson with a mother who can't take care of him (her other child was taken away from her), and she can't hold a job because she's in and out of the hospital all the time.

She won't feed him and treats him like a baby doll—meaning she forgets about him and leaves. I'm afraid my son would abuse the child if he's forced to be a father. The alternative is putting the baby up for adoption, which would break my heart.

How can I make my son understand that this child is his responsibility and he needs to step up and be a dad?

DESPERATE GRANDMA IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DESPERATE GRANDMA: Forgive me if this seems negative, but if you haven't been able to do it by now, your grandchild may become a man before your son does. If you aren't strong enough to assume responsibility for raising the little boy, then, as much as I hate to see another child go into "the system," he should be made available for adoption. However, if you think you could manage it, then talk to an attorney about getting formal custody of your grandson, so you will be given the authority you'll need to raise him without interference from either of his birth parents.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé and I have been together for four years now, and we have yet to set a wedding date because he has "unresolved issues" with my mother. Is there any way I can convince him to talk to her about them, or go to premarital counseling? I'm ready to set the date.

UNSCHEDULED BRIDE IN GEORGIA

DEAR UNSCHEDULED: Four years is a long time for issues to go "unresolved." Are you sure this man still wants to marry you? If his behavior is any indication, this may be how he will deal with problems and disagreements after you are married—and it isn't healthy.

Before you devote any more time to this "engagement," ask him when he plans to accompany you to premarital counseling, because if he's waiting for your mother to die, it could be a long time before you make it to the altar.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Year after year, people are reminded to visit elderly people in nursing homes, taking cookies and entertainment—like children's choirs, etc.

My mother used to work in a nursing home and she said it made her sad to watch the huge influx of people during December, only to see January roll around to—nothing. Once Christmas is over, people go back to their lives, feeling good about their visit to the nursing home or shelter. But the residents are still there come February, June, September. Perhaps the directors, volunteers and families could spread their visits over the entire year instead of focusing only on December.

JUST A THOUGHT IN LUSBY, MD.

DEAR JUST: Your mother is a caring and sensitive person. What she said is valid, and I hope it will be given serious consideration.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Christie's to auction Van Cliburn estate items

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Hundreds of items from the estate of the celebrated pianist Van Cliburn are scheduled to go up for auction next month. The New York auction house Christie's has scheduled a March 4-5 auction of the Van Cliburn collection. The items were left behind in Cliburn's Fort Worth-area mansion when he died a year ago this month. It'll be the second auction of items from the Cliburn collection. Bidders bid more than \$4.3 million for 166 lots of antiques, jewelry and other items in May 2012. Among the items available in this latest bidding is a 144-year-old piano bought by Cliburn's mother, Rildia Bee O'Bryan Cliburn, in the 1940s and given to her son.

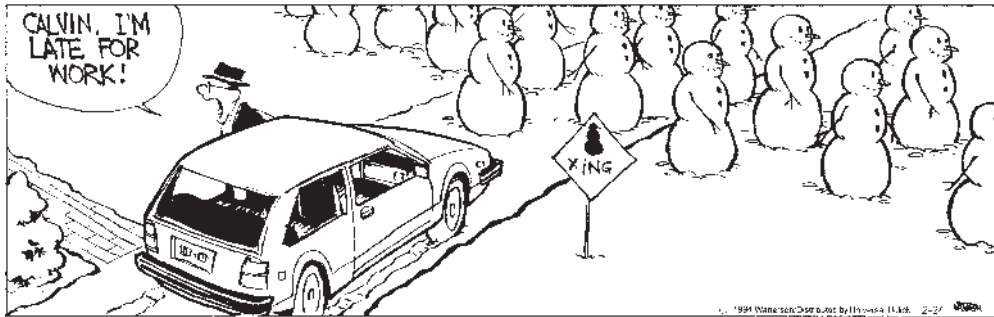
Sci fi/fantasy added to popular annual US series

NEW YORK (AP)—The science fiction/fantasy genre has been admitted into a special club. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Friday that it has added science fiction and fantasy to its popular Best American series. It's the longtime publisher of annual anthologies of everything from short stories to travel writing. "The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy" will launch in 2015. John Joseph Adams has presided over numerous science fiction/fantasy anthologies and will be the ongoing series editor. Best-selling author and son of Stephen King Joe Hill will be the first guest editor. John Updike, Elizabeth Gilbert and James Ellroy are among the many writers who have served as editors for the Best American series.

Pastimes

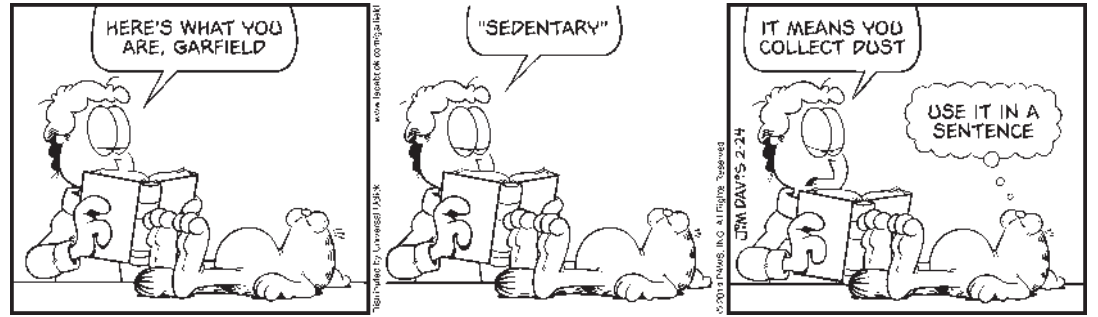
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

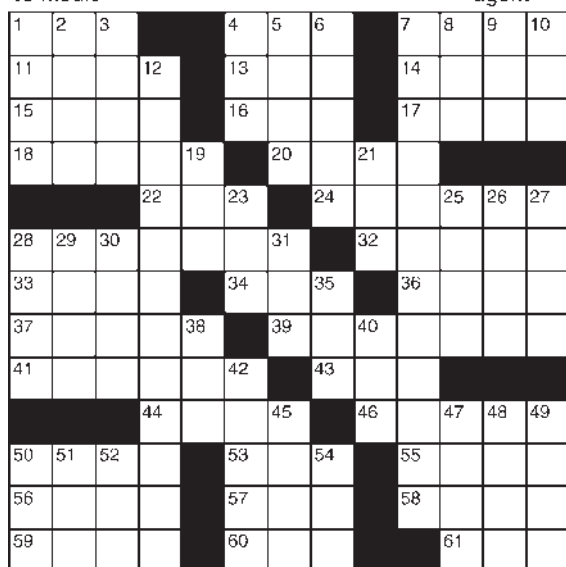
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Purse
4 Autumn mo.
7 Amor-phous mass
11 Moby-Dick's pursuer
13 Gorilla
14 Start over
15 Not wrong (Abbr.)
16 Holster occupant
17 Vortex
18 Over-advertised
20 Couch
22 Wd. modifier
24 Japanese emperor
28 Portrait on a \$20
32 Land-scaping tool
33 Touch
34 Annoy
36 Family member
37 Spa facilities
39 Easter millinery
41 Hi-fi setup
43 Medic
- DOWN**
- 44 Hooting fliers
46 "Wizard of Oz" baddie
50 Suitor
53 Accomplished
55 Egyptian river
56 Pealed
57 Unfriendly
58 Dollop
59 St. Louis attraction
60 — out a living
61 Storm center
2 "Hi, sailor!"
3 "The World According to —"
4 Gripe constantly
5 Piece of work
6 Snake poison
7 It can make your head spin
8 Started
9 Peculiar
10 Young fellow
12 Initial success
19 Dentist's deg.

Solution time: 27 mins.



Friday's answer 2-24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Zane, 48; Debra Jo Rupp, 63; Helen Shaver, 63; Edward James Olmos, 67.

Happy Birthday: Taking on too much will be what drags you down. Set your priorities and convince the appropriate people to help. Emotional issues and partnerships can be dealt with, but honesty must be implemented and equality your goal if you want to avoid resentment. Consider what you want to keep and what you want to discard. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 29, 31, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make plans, but don't share your ideas. Act in secret and you'll make a much larger impact when the time is right to present or promote. Don't let impulsiveness be your downfall. Strategize every move you make and avoid interference and criticism. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put greater focus on yourself and the personal improvements you can make. Dedication and presenting the best possible picture will be what captures the interest of someone looking for a partner or a service you can offer. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Time and energy spent trying to accomplish the tasks you've been given will pay off. Don't let anyone confuse or sidetrack you with criticism or meddling. Take special care of your health. Proper diet and exercise will help you stay strong. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let communication lead the way. Interaction will lead to interesting information and good connections that will be valuable to you when it

comes to legal, money or health issues. Ask questions and strategize to make sure you get your timing perfect. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be afraid to make changes. Taking the initiative will help you gain respect, even though you are likely to face opposition from a jealous onlooker. An unusual set of circumstances will surround a money, health or legal issue. Get the facts straight and proceed. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take pride in what you do. Say what's on your mind and enjoy socializing and being a participant. Partnerships will flourish and romantic encounters will lead to a close bond with someone who supports your efforts and boosts your confidence. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Try not to get bent out of shape if someone overreacts or gives you a hard time. Head in whatever direction looks promising and give your all until you get the results you desire. A new friendship or activity will be exhilarating. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make adjustments at home that will motivate you to be more creative. Taking part in an unusual event will broaden your outlook and help you expand your friendships. An unusual lifestyle will capture your interest. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your emotions under control. You don't want to give anyone the upper hand. Know what's in your bank account and how much you can afford before you spend on

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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something you don't need. Someone you deal with has ulterior motives. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A partnership will turn out to be prosperous. Enjoy the company of someone you've known for a long time. Listen to what's being said, but don't be too quick to divulge your personal secrets. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more emphasis on money, contracts, legal matters and getting back on track. What you do to encourage positive change will bring good results, but that doesn't mean you should be excessive. Greater security will help build confidence. ★★★★★

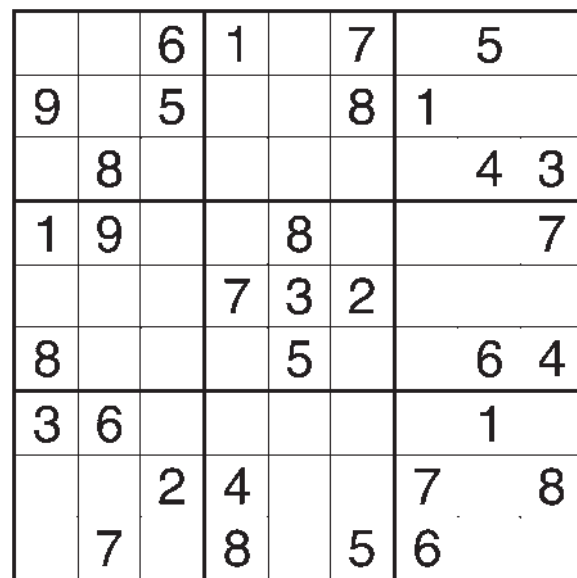
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take part in an event that is geared toward a cause you believe in and you will form an alliance with someone who is able to help you advance. Make a difference by going above and beyond what's expected and you will reap rewards. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are quick, insightful and dedicated. You are a competitive doer. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

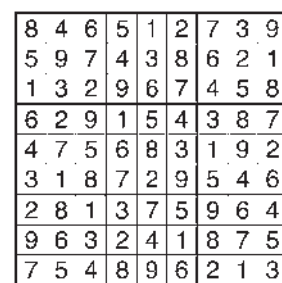


Difficulty Level ★

2/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'CAPTAIN PHILLIPS'

Solution: 7 letters



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Abdirahman, Abdurwall, Ahmed, Alabama, Andrea, Barkhad, Bilal, Billy Ray, Castellano, Catherine, Chris, Corey, Crew, Cronan, Duty, Elmi, Faysal, Frank, Greengrass, Hanks, Hufan, John, Keener, Khat, Mahat, Michael, Mike, Mohamed, Murphy, MV Maersk, Najee, Navy, Nemo, Oman, Omar, Perry, Quinn, Radio, Raid, Richard, Sail, Save, SEAL, Shane, Ship, Somalia, Survival
Last Friday's Answer: True Story
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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(10) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Feb 20, 2014

Close Date: Feb 27, 2014

Position: (1) Supervisor

Salary: \$1,250 per month

Qualification: High school graduate or vocational,
5 years experience

Link:

http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/41-1011.00

Position: (1) Office Manager

Salary: \$1,250 per month

Qualification: AA degree/college graduate,
5 years experience

Link:

http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-1011.00

Position: (1) Mechanic

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Qualification: High school graduate or vocational,
5 years experience

Link:

http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3052.00

Position: (1) Custodial Worker

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Qualification: High school graduate or equivalent,
3 years experience

Link:

http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/37-2011.00

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before February 27, 2014.

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Please send resume to:
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• Engineering graduate

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Triple "L" Construction, Inc.
Fax no.: 234-5104

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Tel. # (670) 235-5572/4

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Tel. (670) 433-2664; Fax (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Feb 20, 2014

Close Date: Feb 27, 2014

Position: (1) Bookkeeper

Salary: \$2,333.00 per month

Qualification: College Graduate
(5) yrs experience

Link:

http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before February 27, 2014

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Yano Enterprises, Inc.:

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Cook (5): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Building 1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Walker scores 31, Bobcats hold off Grizzlies, 92-89



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Kemba Walker scored 31 points and the Charlotte Bobcats won for the fourth time in five nights, defeating the Memphis Grizzlies 92-89 Saturday night.

Charlotte is 4-0 since the All-Star break, marking its longest winning streak since March 2011.

The Bobcats used an 18-3 run in the fourth quarter to break open a tight game and then held on down the stretch with Walker making four free throws in final 25 seconds to snap Memphis' four-game win streak.

The Bobcats won even though the Grizzlies held Al Jefferson to just six points on 2-of-13 shooting. Jefferson came in having scored 29 points or more in eight of his last 11 games and at least 20 points in 17 of the last 19.

The Grizzlies were led by Mike Conley, who had 16 points, but twice missed 3-point attempts when he had a chance to tie the game on Memphis' final possession.

The Bobcats trailed 66-64 early in the fourth quarter when Anthony Tolliver got hot from the outside, igniting an 18-3 run with three 3-pointers to give Charlotte a 13-point lead. Tolliver finished with nine points.

The Grizzlies battled back to close the gap to 86-85 with 1:22 left when Tony Allen stole a lazy pass by Gerald Henderson and scored on a breakaway layup.

Walker missed a running layup and Conley briefly gave the Grizzlies the lead when he knocked down an 18-footer with 51 seconds left.

But Josh McRoberts sank two free throws to put the Bobcats ahead for good with 38 seconds left.

Conley missed a jumper on the other end and then fouled Walker as he was heading up the court. Walker made two free throws to push the lead to three with 24 seconds left.

Marc Gasol answered with an inside layup, but Walker hit two more free throws with 10.7 seconds left to push the lead back to three. Conley had two open looks in the final 6 seconds, but couldn't connect.

The Grizzlies' game plan was to make sure Jefferson didn't beat them, aggressively double-teaming the 6-foot-10, 289-pound center every time he touched the ball. They limited Jefferson to four points on 1-of-6 shooting in the first half and held Charlotte to 39 percent shooting to build a 48-42 halftime lead.

Jefferson picked up his third foul with 2:52 left in the first half - a call that

didn't sit well with Bobcats coach Steve Clifford, who was slapped with a technical foul for arguing. It was his seventh technical foul of the season.

Timberwolves 121, Jazz 104

In Salt Lake City, Kevin Love had 37 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double to help Minnesota cruise past Utah.

Minnesota was again playing without starters Nikola Pekovic (ankle) and Kevin Martin (finger), but Love filled the void, keeping one step ahead of the Jazz through the game.

Ricky Rubio had 15 points, and Corey Brewer and Chase Budinger scored 13 apiece as the Wolves won their third straight game.

Enes Kanter couldn't stop Love, but had success against him on the offensive end, scoring 25 points for the Jazz, who dropped their third in a row after a season-best three-game win streak.

Warriors 93, Nets 86

In Oakland, California, Jermaine O'Neal had season highs of 23 points and 13 rebounds and Stephen Curry added 17 points, including a 3-pointer in the final minute, as Golden State held off Brooklyn for its third straight victory since the All-Star break.

With Andrew Bogut sidelined with a shoulder injury and David Lee out with the flu, O'Neal and Draymond Green more than filled the void in the absence of Golden State's frontcourt regulars.

O'Neal shot 10 for 13 from the floor, and Green scored a career-best 18 points to go with 10 rebounds.

Deron Williams had 20 points and six assists, and Joe Johnson scored 15 points for a Nets team that made just 2 of 21 attempts from beyond the arc.

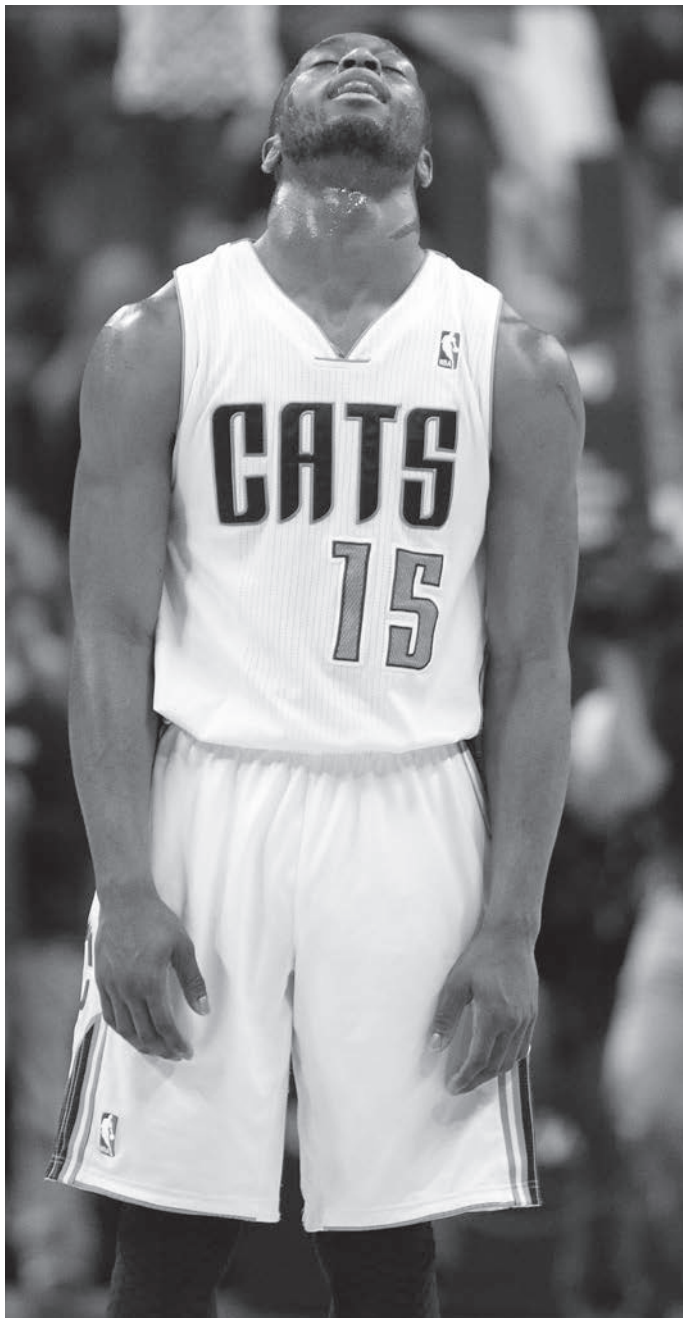
Hawks 107, Knicks 98

In Atlanta, Mike Scott scored a career-high 30 points and Jeff Teague added 28 as Atlanta ended an eight-game losing streak by beating New York.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 35 points for the Knicks, who blew a double-digit, third-quarter lead for the second straight night.

New York has lost two straight and seven of nine to fall 5½ games behind Atlanta for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Atlanta began the game without All-Star forward Paul Millsap, who sustained a right knee contusion late in Friday's loss at Detroit, but the Hawks rallied from a 17-point deficit in the third



AP
Charlotte Bobcats' Kemba Walker (15) reacts as the buzzer sounds sealing a 92-89 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014.

quarter to take a 74-73 lead on Lou Williams' 3 early in the fourth.

Wizards 94, Pelicans 93

In Washington, Nene made the go-ahead dunk with 0.9 seconds left and matched a season high with 30 points to propel Washington past New Orleans.

Washington trailed 93-92 when Anthony Davis hit two free throws with seven seconds left. After a timeout, the Wizards inbounded to John Wall, who dribbled to the lane and passed to Nene, who slammed the ball with his right hand. It was the 12th assist of the night for Wall.

The play spoiled a big performance by Davis, who had 26 points and 11 rebounds. Anthony Morrow added 18 points on 7-of-8 shooting.

Center Marcin Gortat contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards.

Pacers 110, Bucks 100

In Milwaukee, Paul George scored 32 points and David West tied a season high with 30, helping Indiana hang on to beat Milwaukee.

Lance Stephenson added 24 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Pacers, who had lost three of their previous five games. Stephenson scored seven straight points to open the fourth quarter.

Brandon Knight scored 30 points for Milwaukee, including 20 in the first half.

Milwaukee kept the game

close into the final minutes, but West hit a jumper with 48 seconds left to seal the victory.

Kings 105, Celtics 98

In Sacramento, California, Rudy Gay scored eight of his 22 points over the final six minutes and Isaiah Thomas added 21 points and matched his career high with 12 assists as Sacramento beat Boston.

DeMarcus Cousins had 13 points, while Derrick Williams and Carl Landry added 10 points apiece off the bench for Sacramento.

The Kings never trailed and limited the Celtics to one basket over the final 7½ minutes after Boston tied the game midway through the fourth quarter.

Jeff Green scored 29 on 7-of-25 shooting for the Celtics, who played without Rajon Rondo and Jared Sullinger.

Mavericks 113, Pistons 102

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Vince Carter added 18 as Dallas held off Detroit.

The Mavericks finished with 16 offensive rebounds, while the Pistons, who came in leading the NBA in that department, had only nine.

Josh Smith finished with 32 points for the Pistons, his most since signing with Detroit last offseason.

Knicks working to buy out World Peace, Udrih

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks are preparing to buy out the contracts of veterans Metta World Peace and Beno Udrih.

Neither player was available Saturday for the Knicks' 107-98 loss in Atlanta.

"We're going in a different direction and we've got to figure out another spot or two for our ballclub," coach Mike Woodson said before the game.

World Peace wrote on his Twitter account earlier Saturday that his agent was working on a buyout and thanked fans and the city.

Neither veteran has earned a place in Woodson's rotation in his first season in New York. Udrih has appeared in just 31 games, while World Peace, who had a procedure on his knee in January, has played in just 29.

"I can't say anything went wrong," Woodson said. "Again, they weren't in the rotations. I'm not going to linger on it. I mean, we're buying them out. As a coach, guys work for me, I wish them nothing but the best as they move on and we're go-



AP
This Nov. 29, 2013 file photo, shows New York Knicks forward Metta World Peace before an NBA basketball game in Denver.

ing to move on. So that's about the extent of it."

Players have to be waived by March 1 if they hope to sign

with another team and be eligible for the playoffs.

World Peace is a New York native who played at St. John's,

and had long hoped for a homecoming. It didn't turn out to be a happy one with the Knicks, as his 7 minutes of playing time Friday in a double-overtime loss at Orlando was only the sixth game he'd gotten into in 2014.

All-Star Carmelo Anthony said he was surprised because World Peace seemed to be in good spirits a day earlier.

"He was happy. He played," Anthony said. "On the bench, in the locker room, he was a different Metta. Maybe because he had the chance to get out there and play a little bit. But I wake up this morning and hear that he wanted a buyout, it took me by surprise."

Udrih hasn't played since Jan. 24. There was speculation the point guard would be traded before Thursday's trade deadline.

"It's sad to see them go. But look, this is the business of basketball, man," Anthony said. "For whatever reason, I don't know what's the reason that they wanted to get bought out. But it happened and we've got to move on from there."

Matt, 34, wins Olympic slalom; oldest Alpine champ



K R A S N A Y A POLYANA, Russia (AP)—One racer called the course “borderline unsportsmanlike.” Another said it was “brutal.” Five of the top eight skiers in the opening leg failed to even finish the second.

Leave it to 34-year-old Mario Matt to handle the tough gates and soft snow better than anyone. The Austrian veteran added a safe second run to his fantastic first run, and won the Olympic slalom Saturday night to become the oldest Alpine gold medalist in Winter Games history.

“We are used to tricky course-setting,” Matt said, “but today, I have to say, it was a lot.”

In the last Alpine event, Matt’s combined time of 1 minute, 41.84 seconds allowed him to edge the runner-up, Austrian teammate Marcel Hirscher, by 0.28 seconds. They raised their ski-loving country’s total to an Alpine-leading nine medals in Sochi, quite a turnaround after only four—zero for the men—at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

“For us,” said Hans Pum, sports director of the Austrian ski federation, “it’s perfect.”

The bronze went to 19-year-old Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway, the youngest man with an Olympic Alpine medal. He was only 15th-fastest in the opening leg but was superb under the artificial lights at night to move up while plenty of men fell.

He actually was delighted to see gate placements by Ante Kostelic, the father of ninth-place finisher Ivica Kostelic of Croatia and a man known for his challenging and unorthodox designs.

“I was really disappointed after the first run, but when I saw the course ... I thought that I might have a chance,” Kristoffersen said, “so thank you, Ante Kostelic.”

Not many shared that sentiment.

Ted Ligety, the American who won the giant slalom Wednesday, was sixth after the slalom’s first run but skied out less than halfway through the second.

“The snow is just really bad, and Ante set a really difficult, ‘typical Ante’ course set, which is borderline unsportsmanlike,” Ligety said. “But that’s how it goes. Everybody had to ski it.”

Of the 30 who were fastest in the first run, 13 didn’t finish or were disqualified in the second.

“The course set is within the rules. I think it draws an ethical question when you have a dad setting for a son—not that Ivica ever does well in his dad’s sets,” Ligety said. “But this is the Olympics. You’re trying to showcase our sport to the rest of the world. And I don’t think this does us any favors.”

U.S. men’s head coach Sa-



Men’s slalom winners Austria’s Mario Matt (gold), right, and his teammate Austria’s Marcel Hirscher (silver) celebrate on the podium at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

sha Rearick said the course “didn’t have any flow,” because of gates placed at seemingly random intervals and odd angles.

“It challenged the athletes in ways that they normally don’t train or see,” Rearick said. “Today, the course set got into ...

people’s heads.”

Ante Kostelic watched the race from near the finish line, smiling. Asked by a reporter about the course, he said, “I’m a sportsman,” and referenced the Olympic motto of “faster, higher, stronger” before walking away.

His son Ivica, the silver med-

alist in the Sochi super-combined, said of Saturday’s setup: “Even if it is negative, it is good for skiing. It was a spectacle for the spectators.”

He said he told his dad after the first run not to hold back when setting the second.

“We are looking for the

Olympic champion,” Ivica said, “not the school champion.”

Matt now has an Olympic medal 13 years after winning the first of his two slalom world championships.

He’ll turn 35 in April, making him a few months older than Norwegian great Kjetil Andre

Aamodt was when he won the 2006 super-G.

Thinking back to his 2001 world title, Matt said: “I was very young then. It somehow happened automatically. Then I was hurt, and my injuries forced me to start all over. ... I had to fight my way back up.”

He didn’t even race for Austria at the Vancouver Games four years ago. More recently, Matt went more than two years without a World Cup victory until ending that drought in Val d’Isere, France, in December.

On Saturday, he lost a full second of his lead over Hirscher in the second run, then seemed stunned when he crossed the finish line and his time was good enough.

“This is a well-earned victory. Let’s face it, he was faster,” said Hirscher, the two-time overall World Cup champion who had finished fourth twice and fifth once in previous Olympic races.

Hirscher came into the day as the favorite.

Matt, though, ended it with the gold.

“He was one of the first guys to arc slalom turns and do it with consistency,” Rearick said. “For him to come back and win World Cup races, win championships and then to finish off by winning a gold medal here—he’s a tremendous competitor, a game-day guy.”

Austrian cross-country skier out of games for EPO

K R A S N A Y A POLYANA, Russia (AP)—Austrian cross-country skier Johannes Duerr was kicked out of the Sochi Games on Sunday after testing positive for EPO. It is the fifth doping case—and most serious so far—at the Olympics.

“It is a black day for us,” Austrian Olympic Committee President Karl Stoss said at a news conference on the final day of the games.

Duerr finished eighth in the men’s skiathlon on Feb. 9 and was tested seven days later in Austria, where he had flown back for training. He returned to Sochi and had been due to compete in the 50-kilometer mass start Sunday, the final cross-country event.

“We are shocked by this announcement and took the appropriate measures right away,” Stoss said in a statement. “We’ve told the athlete and informed him about his rights, his accreditation has been pulled and he has been excluded from the Olympic team with immediate effect. Duerr is already on his way home.”

EPO is used to boost red blood cells that carry oxygen to the muscles, increasing stamina and endurance. The four other cases involved minor stimulants that can be found in food supplements.

None of the five athletes



In this Feb. 9, 2014 photo Austria’s Johannes Duerr competes during the men’s cross-country 30k skiathlon at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

won medals in Sochi. The other four were: Latvian hockey player Vitalijs Pavlovs, Ukrainian cross-country skier Marina Lisogor, German biathlete Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle and Italian bobsledder William Frullani.

The Austrian cross-country and biathlon teams were at the center of a major doping scandal at the 2006 Turin Olympics. Italian police, acting on a tip, raided the team lodgings and seized blood doping equipment and other substances.

No Austrians tested positive

at those games, but several were later banned for life by the International Olympic Committee.

The 26-year-old Duerr was considered a rising hope for Austria following the Turin scandal.

“We applied all the measures needed and it’s a great pity that after all successful participations of the Austrian team we have had this case of doping,” Stoss said of the team’s response to Turin. “We will do everything that is needed of us to prevent this in future but of course we can’t say there will not be one.”

The EPO test comes after an Olympics in which the Austrians won 17 medals going into the final day.

“This was really good work made by our team,” Stoss said. “The athlete himself confessed that he is the only one who did that and he takes all the responsibility on himself.”

The IOC is conducting 2,453 drug tests in Sochi, a record for the Winter Games. The Olympic body also stores doping samples for 10 years to allow for retesting when new meth-

ods become available.

There was only one positive test at the previous Winter Olympics four years ago in Vancouver. IOC President Thomas Bach said the beefed-up testing is working and catching violators.

“For me it was never a question of the numbers and how many,” Bach said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press on Saturday. “I think it shows we are on the right track.”

Earlier, Pavlovs tested positive for the stimulant methylhexanamine following Latvia’s loss to Canada in the quarterfinals Thursday.

Lisogor tested positive for trimetazidine on Tuesday after the women’s team sprint. She said she had been taking medication for a thyroid condition but “forgot to declare” the drug on her doping form.

Sachenbacher-Stehle, a former two-time Olympic gold medalist, tested positive for methylhexanamine. She blamed a nutritional supplement and said she had never knowingly taken performance enhancers.

Frullani tested positive for dimethylpentylamine. The Italian Olympic Committee told the AP it believed Frullani, a former decathlete, bought the stimulant on the Internet from the United States since it is not available in Italy.

IT&E, IP&E players take charge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E's Kyle Kapileo and IP&E's Tyrese Camacho are ahead in the batting and pitching races in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League.

As of Feb. 17, Kapileo is on top of the batting charts, going 9-for-11 in four games with IT&E. He has a batting average of .818 and is the lone player in the leaderboard to go over .700, as the next five averaged in the .600s. Kapileo leads the Comets I's Glenn Taro and the Braves' Joe Tudela, who are 6-for-9 at bat for similar averages of .666.

There is also a tie for third place with the Hustlers' Juan Lizama and the Falcons' Justin Cangco posting identical averages of .625 after hitting 5-for-8 and 10-for-16, respectively. Another Falcons player Aven Evangelista occupies the fourth spot with his 8-for-13 performance (.615), while four players are in a logjam for fifth place. The Comets I's Francisco Frederick, the JPO Enforcers' Rikko Lizama, and the Falcons' Max Pangelinan all hit 6-for-10 (.600) to join Angel Iguel, also of the Falcons, in the deadlock. Iguel is 9-for-15 at bat.

Completing the batting leaderboard, which was based on eight or more times at bat, are the Red Sox's Kiana Aldan (7-for-12/.583), IT&E's Spencer Dickinson (7-for-12/.583), IP&E Rockies' Tyrese Camacho (9-for-16/.562), and the Comets I's Clarence Cabrera (5-for-9/.555).

After barely making it to

the batting list, Camacho this time enjoys the top view in the pitching category with his 0.22 ERA. In nine innings pitch, he allowed only one run.

Pangelinan is in second place with his 0.90 off 11 innings pitch and two runs allowed, followed by Clarence Cabrera (1.22 ERA), Kenneth

Kaipat (1.75), and J.P. Celis (2.18). The pitching leaders were based on at least 8 innings pitched.

Dickinson missed the pitching list, but is on top of the strikeouts category with 30. He leads Camacho (26), Celis (22), Jode Reyes (19), and

Cabrera (17).

In other categories, Kyle and Philip Kapileo have the most doubles so far in the league with three apiece, while Tudela, Rikko Lizama, and Pedro Maratita have two each. In the RBIs contest, Cangco and

Evangelista share top honors with nine apiece, two more than Iguel's 7, while Aldan and Thomas Agulto have earned six each.

Agulto has two homers so far to lead Aldan, Camacho, Cangco, Dicksion, and Philip Kapileo, who have one homer apiece. Cangco also

barged into the triples leaderboard with his two, tying Juan Lizama, while 11 others have one each. In the runs category, IP&E Rockies' Dai Podziowski is alone at the top spot with his 15, followed by Camacho (12) and Evangelista and Matthew Richardson, who have nine each.

Els reaches semifinals for 1st time in 13 years

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—It's rare to hear Ernie Els describe his week at the Match Play Championship as "wonderful."

He's usually not around long enough to say anything at all.

This time, the wacky world of match play is working in his favor. Even though Els has made more bogeys than birdies, even though he didn't break par at Dove Mountain until his quarterfinal match Saturday, the 44-year-old South African is two matches away from claiming another World Golf Championship.

Els made birdie from the desert on the par-5 eighth hole to take the lead for good against 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, and then pulled away for a 4-and-2 victory to reach the semifinals for the first time in 13 years.

"At times I haven't played my best, as you guys have well-documented and know," Els said with a laugh. "But it's match play. I've just done enough to get through."

Graeme McDowell was the only other player who felt lucky to still be around, only for his luck to run out against Victor Dubuisson of France.

McDowell had reached the quarterfinals even though he never led a single hole while

any of his previous three matches were in progress. He finally took a lead—60 holes into this tournament—and wound up losing.

Typical of his week, it went down to the wire.

Dubuisson hit a beautiful chip from the rough in front of a corporate suite behind the 16th green to save par, while McDowell missed a 6-foot putt to lose the hole. Dubuisson saved par with another superb chip behind the 17th green, and had one more in his bag from below the 18th green to save yet another par. McDowell narrowly missed a 25-foot birdie putt that would have extended the match.

"Lucky, lucky to even be here today," McDowell said. "But actually played quite nicely most of the day. It all boiled down to my putter actually let me down. I had a chance on 14 for the hole, chance on 15 for the hole, missed a short one on 16. My luck is going to run out sooner than later."

Els plays Dubuisson, a rising star in the European ranks who won the Turkish Open, where Tiger Woods finished five shots behind.

In other quarterfinal matches:

- Jason Day reached the semifinals for the second straight year with a 2-and-1 win over Louis Oosthuizen, who played with a nagging back injury.

- Rickie Fowler lost a 3-up lead to Arizona grad Jim Furyk, only to win the last two holes for a 1-up victory for a shot at Day. Furyk was in the same spot as Dubuisson on the 18th hole, but his first chip rolled back down the hill toward his feet.

Fowler is the No. 53 seed, the highest to reach the semifinals since Zach Johnson was No. 59 in 2006 when it was held at La Costa.

Els long held a reputation as a wizard in match play, having captured the World Match Play Championship seven times when it was at Wentworth and featured smaller fields and 36-hole matches. This version hasn't been kind to him.

He reached the semifinals in 2001 at Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne, only to lose to Pierre Fulke. Els didn't imagine it would take this long to get back, though he understands that anything can happen—and usually does—over 18 holes of match play.

"I really had a love-hate relationship with this event, as you

going for those powerful spikes, Baxter almost always checked where Murakami and Guarin were, while Cramer stayed back, anticipating the next play.

The 16-year-old Cramer, who started playing volleyball on Saipan at the age of 7, said with Baxter identifying the weak spot on their foes' defense, he never felt nervous playing in the finals against a pro and a former champion.

guys well know," he said. "I was lucky enough to get in the field a couple of years ago and beat Luke Donald in the first round. But most of the time, I lost in the first round here either on the 18th or 19th hole. It's been a frustrating time in this event."

The semifinals will be Sunday morning, following by the championship match.

"I'm just very glad to be here on Sunday," Els said. "Hopefully, it goes good tomorrow. I still feel I've got a really good one in me."

Fowler never looked like he would need to go 18th holes the way his match against Furyk started. And then he was happy to get there. Furyk was 3 down with only six holes remaining when he made three straight birdies and won a fourth straight hole at No. 16 with a par when Fowler flubbed a chip. Furyk missed the fairway on the 17th, however, allowing Fowler to square the match.

On the 18th, Furyk came up just a fraction short of perfect and saw the ball roll back down the false front of the green. His chip was heavy, and that one rolled back toward his feet and led to bogey. Fowler navigated a quick birdie putt down the slope to a concession range and

"I knew Baxter has my back. I just have to chase those balls and set him up well. We came here with a winning attitude and we kept that all throughout the tournament and our job was made easier by the overwhelming support that Saipan fans showered us," said Cramer.

Meanwhile, the results of the women's division finals will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

its varsity squad, 21-25, 11-25.

Meanwhile, MHS JV registered the lone win via three sets in last Thursday's matches. The Lady Dolphins' junior varsity team dropped the opening set, 23-25, but recovered in the last two, 25-20, 15-13, to bag their fourth victory this season.

XTERRA Saipan Championship on April 5, Tagaman Triathlon on April 12, and Saipan Marathon on April 19. For more information, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)

CRAMER

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and Baxter within a point of topping the double-elimination competition.

After the crucial offensive lapse from Guarin, who won last year's men's division with Tri Bourne in Guam, Cramer and Baxter took some time before serving, briefly discussing their strategy for the next important play.

GCA

From Page 28

(9-3), Saipan Southern High School, MHS JV, and Kagman High School, which have similar 4-8 records, SIS JV (2-11), and KHS JV (1-12).

Besides handing MHS its first defeat of the season, GCA tucked on two more victories last week at the MHS Gymnasium. The Lady Eagles swept MHS JV last Tuesday, 25-10, 15-16, and had similar two-set triumph over KHS JV last Thursday, 25-12, 25-13. GCA's matches over the two JV teams

were cut short, as the two-set sweep wins the game rule has been implemented, starting in the second round.

In other results last week, MHS bounced back from a loss to GCA with back-to-back victories last Tuesday. The Dolphins first dominated Kagman in the first game on the southern court, 27-7, 25-11, and then showed no love lost to sister team MHS JV, 25-2, 25-20, in the last match at the same side of the court.

Completing last Tuesday's winners list were Mt. Carmel, SIS, and Southern. The Lady Knights were paired against

KHS JV in the second game on the north court and needed three sets to nail their ninth win, 25-18, 23-25, 15-8. On the southern end, Kagman's varsity team challenged SIS with the latter finishing the match quickly, 25-12, 25-12. Back on the north court for the last game of the day, Southern may have swept SIS JV, but labored a 26-24, 25-23 win.

For last Thursday's results, five of the six matches were decided after only two sets. Duplicating GCA's sweep of KHS JV were Mt. Carmel, Kagman, MHS, and SIS. The Lady Knights dominated SIS



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	30	25	.545	—
Brooklyn	25	28	.472	4
New York	21	35	.375	9½
Boston	19	38	.333	12
Philadelphia	15	41	.268	15½

Southeast Division

Miami	39	14	.736	—
Washington	27	28	.491	13
Charlotte	27	30	.474	14
Atlanta	26	29	.473	14
Orlando	17	40	.298	24

Central Division

Indiana	42	13	.764	—
Chicago	29	25	.537	12½
Detroit	23	33	.411	19½
Cleveland	22	34	.393	20½
Milwaukee	10	45	.182	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	40	16	.714	—
Houston	37	18	.673	2½
Dallas	34	23	.596	6½
Memphis	31	24	.564	8½
New Orleans	23	32	.418	16½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	43	13	.768	—
Portland	37	18	.673	5½
Minnesota	27	28	.491	15½
Denver	25	29	.463	17
Utah	19	36	.345	23½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	37	20	.649	—
Phoenix	33	21	.611	2½
Golden State	34	22	.607	2½
L.A. Lakers	19	36	.345	17
Sacramento	19	36	.345	17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Extended Little League, tennis action

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The usual two-day playing schedule in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball and 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament was extended last week.

Besides the Saturday and Sunday games, the Major division of the SLLB also held matches at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield last Monday with the Falcons and IP&E Rockies routing the Ol'Aces and the Jets, respectively. The Falcons and the Rockies gained twin wins last week, as they also prevailed over separate foes during a weekend game, while the Little Legals, Comets I, Laolao Bay, and the Enforcers bagged victories against their respective opponents.

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, there were back-to-back Junior League action with the six teams entered in the division playing last Sunday and Monday. The Enforcers won twice to keep the division lead, while the four other squads—Jets, Fielders, Falcons, and Comets—had a split, and the Red Sox went 0-2.

In the Senior League, the Red Sox were victorious, along with the Enforcers and the Jets.

Victory was also on the side



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

U.S. pro Kauai Salzman serves during a warm-up with Jacklyn Jones at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sandcourts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players from Thundercats and the CNMI Women's National Team battle for the ball during their game in the M-League last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A.J. Hudkins stretches for a return during a U14 game in the 2014 White Coconut Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Steven Goodwin serves, while Peter Loken gets ready near the net during their mixed-up doubles game against Luke Being and Joshua Abragan in the 2014 White Coconut Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Jets runner stays on the plate, while a Red Sox defender waits for the next play during their game in the Junior League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

of Luke Beling and Joshua Abragan, who clinched the mixed-up doubles crown in the White Coconut Classic during the third and last day of the competition.

Jake Lee, Luther Lizama, Rintaro Miyawaki, Michael Ren, Mikayla Lopez, Tania Tan, Conatsu Kaga, and Erika Tuttle joined Beling and Abragan on the winner's list of this year's

Coconut Classic.

Meanwhile, in other tournaments last week, Marianas High School remained unbeaten in the MISO boys caging, while Grace Christian Academy ended MHS' streak in the girls volleyball.

Still in volleyball, professional players from the U.S. and Japan started arriving last week for the Marianas Cup Beach

Volleyball Festival. The visitors went to the MHS Gymnasium to watch games in the MISO volleyball league and then conducted a clinic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's sandcourts.

In soccer, the M-League played Week 2 of its spring season, while the NMIFA youth league also had its sets of matches for the second straight week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces huddle before pitching against the Falcons during their game in the Major division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luke Being and Joshua Abragan talk before serving against Steven Goodwin and Peter Loken during their mixed-up doubles game in the 2014 White Coconut Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts last week.



Walker scores 31,
Bobcats hold off
Grizzlies, 92-89
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Matt, 34, wins
Olympic slalom;
oldest Alpine champ
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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cramer, Baxter triumph in Marianas Cup



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rain poured in the men's finale of yesterday's 2014 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival and so did the home crowd's support to Saipan-raised Misaki Cramer, who teamed up with returning pro Paul Baxter in ruling the weekend competition at the Fiesta Resort & Spa sandcourts.

Cramer and Baxter bounced back from a tough Game 1 loss, 21-23, with a convincing 21-15 victory in the title-clinching Game 2 to foil Manny Guarin's bid for back-to-back championship and Hitoshi Murakami winning in his debut.

"It was great and inspiring to play in front of the people I knew while growing up on Saipan and playing in the beaches here. Their tremendous support really helped me

in the finals," said Cramer, who was mobbed by father Jon and other Saipan supporters at the court after clinching the championship.

Cramer and Baxter secured the men's crown after the latter blocked Murakami, one of the eight pros who joined the tourna-

ment. Earlier, Guam's Guarin committed a pivotal service error, as his shot went wide over the backline, moving Cramer

See CRAMER on Page 26



Miyazuka tops Tinian Turquoise Blue

Hideya Miyazuka led a pack of 32 competitors from Japan and the Northern Mariana Islands to top the 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue held last Feb. 15.

The 50-year-old Japanese competitor, a repeat champion in the triathlon and a familiar face on the race circuit in the Northern Marianas, finished the course in 2:42:13. He was followed by Tyce Mister of Saipan (2:48:33) and Nobuhiro Nakano of Japan (3:27:30).

The top female finishers were Yoko Tsurugi (3:38:44), Chieko Yageta (3:41:20), and Sayuri Kamuo (3:46:48), all of Japan.

"Good weather and the continued warm hospitality of the people of Tinian contributed to another great triathlon this month," said Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas. "The participants also appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival that same weekend and to be recognized on-stage during the festivities. We thank the Office of the Mayor, the municipal council, our MVA members, and community for partnering with the MVA to make this a memorable weekend in Tinian for the athletes."

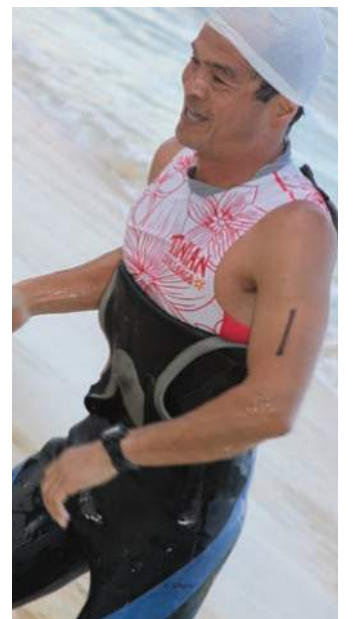
The Reef Swim portion of the event attracted 12 competi-

tors. Syoji Yamashita of Japan finished first in the 1.5K swim with a time of 00:41:55, Riko

Nagashima of Japan took top honors in the 3K course with a time of 1:02:24, and Vener Urena of Saipan finished the 4.5K course first in 1:24:40.

The Tinian Turquoise Blue

See MIYAZUKA on Page 26



MVA

Hideya Miyazuka finishes the swim leg of the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon last Feb. 15. Miyazuka finished first in the triathlon in 2:42:13.

GCA keeps winning run in MISO v'ball



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy has won its last 10 games in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League after losing in the opening week to keep pace with the leading Marianas High School.

Incidentally, the Lady Eagles were the first ones to beat the Lady Dolphins this season, as the former rallied past the latter at the start of the second round on Feb. 13. The defending champion GCA lost the first set, 19-25, but prevailed in the last two, 25-21, 15-10, to avenge its first round loss to MHS.

With the victory, only one win separated the second-running Lady Eagles (10-1) from the Lady Dolphins (11-1). Completing the standings are Mount Carmel School (10-2), Saipan International School



See GCA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas High School player makes a return to Saipan International School JV during their game in the MISO volleyball league last week at the MHS Gymnasium.